

# THE LANCET

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THREEPENCE  
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

## ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

On MONDAY, December 19, at Four P.M. Papers:—By G. BERTIN, 'On the Origin of the Phœnician Language'; and by W. SIMPSON, 'On a Sculptured Tote at Bras, near Ladak.' Col. YULE will exhibit a Lolo MS. W. S. W. VAUX, Sec. R.A.S.

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LITERATURE

*The Voyage of the Vega round Asia and Europe.* By A. E. Nordenskiöld. Translated by Alexander Leslie. 2 vols. (Macmillan & Co.)

Two years have now elapsed since Baron Nordenskiöld accomplished his remarkable voyage along the northern shores of Europe and Asia. In that interval the world has had time to criticize its results more calmly than it was inclined to do in the first flush of enthusiasm, while those who took the most active part in its labours have been busy sitting, describing, and collating their discoveries. The result is the two handsome volumes before us. To render them worthy of the striking feat of which they are the record, the arts of the typographer, engraver, and cartographer have been called into play; nor is the letter-press undeserving of its accompaniments. Geographically, of course, the Swedish *savant* cannot be said to have made any discoveries, and only very ignorant people talk of Baron Nordenskiöld "discovering" the North-East Passage. There was, indeed, little left to discover. The fact that a water-way existed along the Arctic shores of the Old World had for many ages been familiar to every geographer, and in one way or another nearly every foot of this ice-choked road had been mapped out by a succession of hardy explorers. Creeping in from the Atlantic and the Pacific, floating down the great Russian and Siberian rivers, sledging off the sea edge of the frozen *tundra*, little by little—and rudely it may be sometimes—those iron men who are bred in the far North had managed to put on our charts the outlines of the coast along which the adventurers in the Vega sailed. The most they could do was to execute scientifically what, in the duress of a dog sledge or an Ostiak *yourt*, had been laid down with less precision. In brief, the great merit—and it is no small one—of the Swedes was that by the exercise of skill, forethought, and energy, favoured by an exceptionally open year, they achieved in one ship, and in all but one season, what scores of separate navigators and travellers in all kinds of sea and land craft had accomplished roughly and in a fragmentary fashion. This Baron Nordenskiöld would be himself the first to acknowledge. Indeed, the size of his book is due mainly to a laudable anxiety to do jus-

tice to his numerous predecessors, the earliest of whom were the whales caught in the Sea of Okotsk, and still bearing imbedded in their blubbery flanks the harpoons which had been driven into them in the Greenland seas. The learned author complains that his story has in it so little of excitement that unless he relieved its sameness by these rehearsals of bygone episodes, already embalmed in Hakluyt and Purchas, it would be extremely monotonous. In some respects this is true, but the fact is all the more to the credit of the expedition. It was so completely successful that the writer has not a single misfortune or accident to record. Everybody came home hale and hearty, and the Vega was as sound as when she sailed; indeed, had not the adventurers been so fortunate—or, as they imagined, unfortunate—as to be stopped for a winter when almost in sight of the open water of Bering Strait, a very few pages would have sufficed for the story of their famous voyage. Sir Hugh Willoughby has supplied a weird chapter to English naval history, though he never got beyond the shores of Lapland. Willem Barents and his strange story relate to Novaya Zemlya, and the entrancing tale of the Tegethoff was written by unfortunates frozen in at the very outset of their quest. The favoured Swedes have little more than a monotonous narrative of uninterrupted sailing to present, and hence are among those happy people whose history, according to Montaigne, is "ennuyeuse." Leaving Norway in July, 1878, they were by the end of September in Koljutschin Bay, with nothing between them and the Pacific save a field of ice. But this floe was impassable even by the skilful Palander and his cosmopolitan band, composed of Swedes, Danes, Italians, and Russians. So they lay among the Tuski until the following July, when they started again; and after a pleasant voyage to Japan, China, Ceylon, Singapore, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean, and festivities enough to gratify even the "fest"-loving Swedes, the Vega arrived at Stockholm. The winter's stoppage enabled the Swedish explorers to collect some of their principal scientific results, and furnished materials for the chapter on the Tuski or Chukches—occasionally also called Tchuktches—regarding the soundness of which the American ethnologists already show signs of joining issue with Baron Nordenskiöld.

A voyage so completely successful that it is almost without salient incidents likely to attract the popular mind need not be criticized on the usual lines of books of travel. The work is, in fact, a summary of the results of the expedition written for "the general reader," in language less technical than that necessarily employed in the volumes at present publishing in Sweden on the scientific aspects of the voyage. But to all except a few enthusiasts this book will supply ample information. Indeed, Baron Nordenskiöld, like most *savants*, is not endowed with what Swift called the talent of knowing when to leave off. He hammers his metal out to its utmost tenuity; and as he is deficient, like most specialists, in what may be termed intellectual perspective, his treatment of each topic he has occasion to touch upon is determined, not by its intrinsic importance, but by the accident whether he may be possessed of much or of little

information on the subject. If he speaks of a walrus, we are not spared one iota about the walrus in ancient or modern times; if Alfred the Great's edition of Orosius is referred to, we have an elaborate account of that personage; and not content with writing out of a full mind about bird, beast, fish, and fowl in the body of the page, the baron overflows into foot-notes, so that after a chapter or two there is some difficulty in finding the thin thread of narrative amid the mass of detail. It also occasionally happens that the author's knowledge, great though it be, is not sufficient to cover the ground over which he spreads it. For instance, it is not correct to say that the walrus, but not the seals, are troubled with "lice." By "lice," no doubt, are meant the various species of *Hæmatopinus* with which the seals, like the other pinnipeds, are annoyed, several species having been described from these animals (vol. i. p. 162). On the whole, however, the reader will be pleased with the vivid and, for the most part, accurate accounts of Arctic animals which are scattered through Baron Nordenskiöld's pages, though it was needless for the translator to give both the Swedish and the English names of the birds which are so profusely figured.

Mr. Edward Rae, with whose work our author does not seem to be acquainted, and, above all, Castren and Schrenck, have given very full accounts of the Samoyedes. Yet the details supplied by Nordenskiöld, more particularly regarding their religion and idols, will always possess a distinct ethnological value. Naturally the arrival of the Vega at Port Dickson, at the mouth of the Yenesei, rouses our author's enthusiasm; for his first voyage to that river led to the one he is describing. Yet he does not fail to give credit to our countryman Capt. Wiggins for his share in an enterprise which, had he been as well supported as the Swedes, might have given, not to Scandinavia, but to England, the glory of having achieved that North-East Passage which her navigators so often tried. Unfortunately, however, Baron Nordenskiöld's sanguine prophecy that a regular trade between Europe and Siberia will be carried on during the autumn months has not been borne out. It is now beginning to be feared that anything like regular or profitable intercourse by sea between Europe and Siberia is a mere dream, and that the Vega's voyage to the Lena and beyond was singularly favoured by circumstances, on which it would never do for traders to depend. Nevertheless it is well to place on record the opinions of the famous Swedish explorer. "During our passage from Norway to the Lena," the baron writes,

"we had been much troubled by fog, but it was only when we left the navigable water along the coast east of Cape Chelyuskin that we fell in with ice in such quantity that it was an obstacle to our voyage. If the coast had been followed the whole time, if the weather had been clear and the navigable water sufficiently surveyed, so that it had been possible to keep the course of the vessel near the land, the voyage of the Vega to the mouth of the Lena would never have been obstructed by ice, and I am convinced this will happen year after year during the close of August, at least between the Yenesei and the Lena. For I believe that the place where

ice obstacles will perhaps be met with most frequently will not be the north point of Asia, but the region east of the entrance to the Kara Sea."

The historical account of previous voyages is perhaps the most complete extant, though for the ordinary reader this section would have well borne compression. In criticizing De la Martinière, the "Münchhausen of the North-East voyages," Baron Nordenskiöld does not seem to be aware that the story which he tells of Lapps selling three winds for ten crowns and a pound of tobacco may be an actual narrative of experiences, and not a transcript from Olaus Magnus. The practice is mentioned in 'Hudibras,' and until recently skippers were in the habit of landing at Kola to "buy a wind" to "fetch the White Sea," just as whaling captains of the old school used to purchase similar aid at the Orkney Islands to blow them across the Atlantic. The mammoth is the subject of another extremely valuable chapter. In truth, it is impossible to open a page without finding some fact or theory or discussion about cosmic dust, or zoology, geography, ethnology, ice, or plants; but a good deal of this matter might more suitably have been placed in an appendix. We regret to find Baron Nordenskiöld introducing such controversial points as the exact mode of formation of Greenland icebergs, in opposition to rival theorists, whose views he does not correctly describe, while he omits to mention that his own theory—to which he refers offhand, as if it were the accepted one—is adopted by scarcely any geologists of any weight, and has been criticized not very favourably by those whose experience in the formation of these ice blocks is even greater than his own. We may add that his theory is not invariably confirmed by his own descriptions.

We had noted several other points for criticism. But it is impossible in a limited space to pass in review everything in a work like this, which is crammed with endless details of scientific interest, sometimes stated, it is necessary to say, too dogmatically, though, we are willing to admit, without any desire on Baron Nordenskiöld's part to be unjust to rival naturalists. The chapter on the Chukches is, for instance, at variance with Mr. Dall's researches, and is likely to give rise to some sharp words; while an erroneous idea is given of the western Eskimo by comparing them, not with the wild tribes of the Arctic archipelago, but with the docile Lutherans of Greenland. Nor does there seem to be any justification for the alteration of the old and familiar name of East Cape to Cape Deschnev, a defiance of the canons of geographical nomenclature that is not likely to be favourably received. The translator, like the engravers and the cartographer, has performed his task in a manner which deserves a word of praise. It is not always possible to exactly reproduce the Swedish phrases in the English idiom, and occasionally such words as "confession," applied to the "Konungeskuggsja" (vol. i. p. 159), and "dog fish" (vol. ii. p. 59) to the *Dallia*, are misleading. "Brandy" is also used throughout the work to mean *brandevin*, or the coarse rye or potato spirit of the North, and not

cognac, which nearly every reader will consider its English equivalent. Again, such words as "agrinome," "arctician," &c., are barely English. Further, it is hard to see why in an English book German and Swedish miles are used; why French kilomètres, centimètres, and millimètres are invariably employed; or why Celsius's is the thermometrical scale adopted in a work presumably intended for the British circulating library. There are not many misprints, though surely designation of a page of shells (vol. i. p. 379) the "Sub-fossil marine *Crustacea* from the Tundra" must come under this category. Again, what port is meant by "Vlissingen" (vol. ii. p. 555)? Is it not the famous harbour which we Britons know as Flushing? And why, in the name of the weary student, it may be asked, is there not an index?

Altogether, though Baron Nordenskiöld's narrative is here and there disfigured by faults peculiar to the subject, to the author, and perhaps also to his nationality, it is unquestionably a great work by a great traveller. The claim to novelty it might have at one time made has vanished, owing to the numerous accounts of the main facts of the voyage which have appeared within the last two years. It is expanded to cumbersome proportions by the insertion of long accounts of the ordinary tourist impressions of Japan, Hongkong, and Ceylon, and it is now and then marred by statements which a judicious friend would have excised. Still, the *ipsissima verba* of the man whose keen mind devised, and whose energy carried out, one of the noblest enterprises of our day must possess a value which time, instead of lessening, will steadily enhance.

*Her Majesty's Prisons: their Effects and Defects.* By One who has tried Them. 2 vols. (Sampson Low & Co.)

THAT outside both the criminal and the official classes there is a public interested in the internal economy of prisons has been proved by the success of some recent works on this subject, notably of 'Five Years of Penal Servitude,' reviewed in these columns about four years ago. Nor, apparently, is that interest confined to professional philanthropists. There must be a public to whom the subject is attractive composed of far wider and more various elements—that "general public," in short, for which circulating libraries make their chief provision, and for whose pleasure novelists usually write. It would be easy to assert that the curiosity thus manifested is morbid, and to place it on the same level with that too often shown in the details of horrible crimes and the sayings and doings of atrocious criminals. But even if the latter part of this charge were capable of being sustained, it by no means follows that the former part must be true, and it is undoubtedly desirable that public opinion should have an opportunity of informing itself with regard to prison management as well as about other matters of general concern. What is undesirable is that it should be induced to dwell upon the revolting and abject details of any of them rather than upon the methods for their improvement. It requires discriminating treatment to make a work dealing with crime and criminals

palatable and profitable reading, and to save one treating of prison life from the contamination of a subject in itself sordid, low, and pitiful.

It can scarcely be said that the author of the present work has brought this prime requisite to his task. He is certainly lacking in discrimination, even if he has not more to answer for. His object in becoming an author was, he himself declares, the desire "of exposing as far as lay in my power the ill-treatment and petty tyranny of our prisons, and, at the same time, of pointing out what appeared to me the weak points in the present system of conducting local prisons";

in which pursuit, he continues, "feeling that I had no right to slur over the faults of any of the officials, I have spoken out plainly," and he particularly values himself on the effort "only to set down the simple and exact truth." In another passage, forming the last paragraph of the preface, and copied almost verbatim on the last page but one of his second volume, he hopes, in sending these pages forth,

"that by their means some of the abuses of our present prison system may be stamped out, some of the unnecessary cruelties prevented in the future, and some better mode of reclaiming criminals be adopted."

Now the manner in which this *exact truth* is told (the italics are the author's) is somewhat singular. More than half of the two volumes is filled with conversations, carried on for the most part in a vernacular that we should be glad to believe to be peculiar to prisons. Does the author wish it to be understood that these conversations are, indeed, reproduced *exactly*? Apparently he does, for no hint of the opposite is given; but, on the contrary, every device for giving them verisimilitude is employed. They are described as being conducted by himself, or overheard by him at stated times and places, and the tones, gestures, and appearance of the speakers are carefully noted and often minutely criticized. They are garnished with vulgarities, and occasionally with felons' slang, which it is a little difficult sometimes to understand. This last device is fair enough if they are intended merely as specimens of prison language. But then the reader should not be called upon to believe that they are genuine conversations. How could they be so? The author was imprisoned for twelve months with hard labour, and these objectionable conversations commence even before his conviction. What means had he all this time of taking exact words down and preserving them? If he had such means, then the most interesting revelation of his whole captivity, the description of them, has been left out of the book. If he had not, then he must be supposed to have remembered every word of every one of them all that time. It is suspicious, too, that in description as well as conversation vulgarisms occur so constantly. The author has, in particular, a tenderness for one slang term, which he repeats till its reiteration becomes positively ludicrous. This is the word "billet" in the sense of post or situation. In a single half page this execrable barbarism in language occurs three times, and twice again on the two succeeding pages. The first-mentioned instance is really worth quoting as a curiosity, and it will give, more-

over, some idea of the writer's style. It is as follows:—

"At Xshire we had two full warders, Humphrey and Old Bob, although there was a serious dispute as to the latter's right to the billet as Rugby had been three months longer in the prison service. It would seem that they both applied at the same time for the billet of the assistant warder, and that Rugby was accepted and the other rejected, both, however, having so many testimonials that it was an even question which the magistrates should reject. Three months later the magistrates found that they would require a new receiving and hospital warder, and as they had been very well satisfied with Old Bob's testimonials they sent and offered him the billet."

The principal part of the first volume is flippant and in places also spiteful. The very first person to whom the reader is introduced on the very first page is a "bibulous-nosed individual," at present a chief constable, who announces himself to have been formerly an officer in the Royal Artillery. Whereupon our author writes:—

"I stared at him, for I thought, 'My word, R.A. generally turns out something considerably above your mark,' and my idea was correct, for I afterwards discovered that he never had been in the regular service, but had only been a marine."

Are not the marines in the regular service, then? Upon this officer much vulgar abuse is heaped, nor upon him alone; warders, doctors, prison inspectors, judge and jury—almost every one with whom the author at the beginning comes in contact—are subjected to it. Of the magistracy he has the lowest opinion, and of their judicial proceedings he says: "There is more injustice perpetrated in England by the great unpaid than in any other civilized country in the world"; while he hastens to assure his readers nevertheless that his "own brother is one, and usually chairman of quarter sessions, and I have uncles and cousins by the dozen who are justices."

However, notwithstanding the wretched style and the bad taste that characterizes this book, it may perform a useful part in calling attention to some grave defects which still deform our prison management. The treatment of unconvicted prisoners is one of these. The prison dietary also is a matter that requires reconsideration if we are to place any confidence in the statements about it here, again and again repeated with such emphasis. If it be true, as asserted, that twelve months' hard labour is enough to break down the health of most strong men, owing to the insufficient nourishment supplied to them, and if the quoted dictum of a learned judge, that four such terms of imprisonment are equivalent to a sentence of death, be justified, then this question is one of pressing public concern. To send out a man upon the world, after but one year's incarceration, utterly unfitted for any honest labour is simply to employ the most efficient means of manufacturing an habitual criminal in the shortest possible time. The matter becomes worse, too, upon realizing for what description of offences this sentence is sometimes passed. The author of 'Her Majesty's Prisons' quotes some really harrowing instances from his own knowledge of offences of mere temper and breach of discipline being punished in this way, with the most

lamentable results. They are principally the misdeeds of sailors who have gone ashore without leave or resented some petty tyranny of a superior officer; and the writer justly says that for such offences "it seems most unjust and unfair to treat them like criminals and place them in common prisons," and that "where the offences committed are simply and solely crimes because they happen to be contrary to naval discipline and good order the men ought to be sent to the naval prisons only." Another sensible suggestion is that the status of prison matrons, which at present appears to be very low, should be raised. He would have women of a better class appointed to these posts, and he believes that they would willingly accept them. This is perhaps doubtful, but certainly if they would do so they might perform a most useful work, and it could not, after all, be more painful and revolting than that which many ladies are every day found willing to impose upon themselves. Finally, there is one scene described in these volumes which it is to be hoped may be brought under the notice of the prison authorities. A warder is described as most brutally ill-using a prisoner who had ventured to complain of him to the prison inspector. There must be something radically wrong in the management of a system nominally for the reformation of criminals where so disgraceful an incident could have occurred.

*A Hunter's Wanderings in Africa.* By Frederick Courteney Selous. (Bentley & Son.)

WHEN we recollect the elaborate preparations of other travellers, it must be admitted that Mr. Selous started very slenderly accoutred on his nine years' campaign against the wild beasts of Africa, having, as he tells us, "only the weight of nineteen years on his shoulders," 400*l.* in his pocket, and a couple of guns, one of which did not shoot straight. He regrets the disadvantages necessarily, as he thinks, incident to the style of a writer who begins such a career so early; and no doubt a different education might have given a wider interest to the book, and have put more form and order into it. There is no attempt, for instance, to note the distinguishing characteristics of the various districts through which he travelled, nor does he vouchsafe much more than an occasional allusion to their respective inhabitants. His style, however, is natural and unaffected, and his readers will like the simplicity and directness with which he describes his arrangements, and states his views, when he does state them, on any subject. He asserts the dignity of a hunter's life, and declares that the little scattered band of Englishmen of whom he formed a part have always maintained the good name of their country. His favourite characters in history, after whom he names an unknown mountain or waterfall, are Cromwell and Beaconsfield. It is only in dreams, he says, that you get perfectly good sport without any drawback or alloy; and sitting by the camp fire after a hard day's work he desires the presence of a friend with whom to fight his battles over again; but he enjoys his waking life too:—

"It is difficult to imagine anything more tasty and succulent than a steak off a young giraffe

cow, when in good condition, though it may be that hunger, the sauce with which I have always eaten it, may have something to do with this opinion."

The confusion of his ideas on Sunday observance is laughable, but not much more so than that of persons who have probably thought more on the subject. Thus, "as it was Sunday, and we wished to cut up the meat of the three pookoos, we came to a halt soon after midday"; but "a couple of hours after sundown, being tired of sitting still, I called up my Kaffirs," and went to shoot buffaloes. On another occasion: "The next day was Sunday, but believing that 'the better the day the better the deed,' I followed the elephants," &c. As to his style, the following bit of description at least shows that it is not deficient in realism:—

"The huge carcass, or rather what remained of it, lay on one side, as it had fallen, with the legs extended. Behind the ribs and just over the belly the Kaffirs had peeled off a large slab of skin, about three feet square, and through the trap-door thus formed dragged out the stomach and intestines; they had also cut out the heart, liver, and lungs, so that what was left was merely a hollow shell, in the lower part of which the blood had formed a pool a foot deep. Into this cavity they and the Bushmen now kept entering by twos, disappearing entirely from sight, searching eagerly for small pieces of fat along the backbone and about the kidneys, and bathing in and smearing themselves all over with the blood. This is a common practice amongst all the natives of the interior of Africa whenever large game, such as elephants or rhinoceroses, are killed, particularly if they happen to be the first of the season. Whether they imagine that this bath of blood gives them courage or not, I cannot say. They do not wash it off again, but let it dry on them, and remain there till it gradually wears or gets rubbed off."

Though seldom expressing, or probably feeling, much tenderness for animal suffering, it is to his credit that even while a mere youth he rarely yielded to the temptation of making a big bag; and if the numbers killed seem large, it must be remembered that the hunter trusts to ivory for furnishing the sinews of war, and that the needs of his followers and of the natives on whose good offices he depended had to be met by considerable supplies of meat. Such a slaughter, he says, "brings more joy to the hearts of these poor but voracious heathen than all the tracts and Bibles ever published for their benefit,"—which may be true without disproving the superior value of the spiritual meat.

Mr. Selous's hunting adventures have necessarily a good deal of sameness; but they are well told, and, owing to his faculty of close observation, they incidentally contain a good deal of information on the habits of the animals. Although he had some narrow escapes, the first impression his readers will derive from his stories is the comparative safety of the sport, the sagacity of the elephant not having kept pace in its development with the ingenuity of the gun-maker and of the sportsman. Of the tenacity of life shown by the elephant and other large game he quotes some remarkable instances. His powers of observation are further well shown in his remarks about the giraffe, and on the different varieties of the rhin. ceros, antelope, and lion, which are full of interest. He

might have expressed his disagreement with Dr. Livingstone's statements about the king of beasts in more measured terms; but perhaps he resents the great missionary's intrusion into his special province! He considers the lion to be the most formidable animal in South Africa, though the terror inspired by his voice is lessened by closer knowledge.

"Just as I was falling asleep a troop of lions commenced to roar, and I roused myself to listen to their deep-toned, muttering voices. They seemed to be advancing steadily along the river towards our camp, roaring grandly at intervals, and at length reached the place, not thirty yards away, where the buffaloes had drunk. Here they gave tongue in splendid style, making the whole forest resound again, and causing me to sit up and clutch my rifle involuntarily. Several times have I, when camped in a patch of bush, or lying at a shooting-hole on the edge of some lonely pool or river, thus heard a troop of lions roar in my immediate vicinity, so close indeed, sometimes, that I could hear the hiss of their breath after each purr; and though it is now the fashion to depreciate the courage of the lion, the power of his voice, and everything else concerning him, yet it is a fact that, under such circumstances, several of them roaring in unison will make the whole air in their immediate vicinity vibrate and tremble, and I know of nothing in nature more awe-inspiring, or on a dark night more calculated to make a man feel nervous. As a matter of fact, however, according to my experience, there is very little to fear from lions when they roar freely, as they only do so after they have satisfied their hunger, whereas, when on the look out for a meal, they are as still as the grave, or only give vent to a low purring growl, which, though uttered close at hand, seems to come from a long way off."

The drawings of antelope heads, illustrating papers originally written for the Zoological Society, and reprinted here, are beautifully done.

*English Men of Letters.—De Quincey.* By David Masson. (Macmillan & Co.)

ON the whole, Prof. Masson has done nothing so satisfactory as this monograph: its style is sober and almost graceful; moreover, a monograph on De Quincey was really needed—which can hardly be said of all the volumes in this series. Among the friends of Wordsworth and Coleridge there is no more interesting figure than the bright-eyed, silver-tongued little student who, in order to identify himself with the great naturalistic movement initiated in this country by the Lakists, took a cottage at Townend, Grasmere, and lived there, not so much with Nature as among his books, for something like twenty years. In a certain sense, indeed, De Quincey is still more interesting—undoubtedly he is more curious—than his illustrious friends. There was something elfish about the restless little "brownie" who moved about at night over hills and across dales, no one knew why or whither. Yet the image of that eccentric object haunts the memory and teases the imagination more than does the image of any one of the *coryphæi* of the school. Once having caught a glimpse of that beautiful, uncanny little face—once having caught the light of those eyes, a light unearthly, unheavenly, and yet not quite "the light of the eyes of hell"—once having listened to the tones of that voice—it was impossible ever to forget the owner of them. Contrasting De Quincey with

Carlyle, Prof. Masson quotes the words of Goethe in which he characterizes the Scotch sage as "a moral force of great importance." As if from a brownie or an elf we look for "moral force"! As if we expect a "kobold" to do us any good—as if men are not quite content, indeed, if the "kobold" does them no harm! It must not be supposed that there is anything fanciful and exaggerated in this definition of the "English Opium-Eater." It explains, indeed, his most peculiar and anomalous position in the literature of our century. Every one, for instance, wonders why, having got so near to writing poetry in the 'Suspiria de Profundis,' De Quincey never actually wrote in verse. That acute critic Mr. Leslie Stephen attributes De Quincey's failure to use the poetical form to the fact that he was "utterly incapable of concentration." The subject, however, is, we suspect, deeper than at first appears. The elfish—the irresponsible—is the literary impulse at the heart of De Quincey's confessions, and distinguishes them from all other confessions, such, for instance, as those of St. Augustine and Rousseau. To produce poetry the soul must, for the time being, have reached—the very opposite of the elfish—a state of exaltation and of freedom from self-consciousness such as De Quincey, with all his marvellous and splendid gifts, seems to have never known—a state which even in prose may sometimes be reached; for Burke's glowing periods show that he, a poet though without numbers, would have understood as thoroughly as any poet adopting the metrical form Mr. Tennyson's words:—

I started once, or seem'd to start, in pain,  
Resolved on noble things, and strove to speak,  
As when a great thought strikes along the brain  
And flushes all the cheek.

Into this mood the poet must always pass before he can write a truly poetic line. For in the deepest sense of the word poetry is an "inspiration" indeed. No man can write a line of genuine poetry without having been "born again," without having first "suffered a sea change" such as no self-conscious and elfish mind like De Quincey's could ever suffer. Here, indeed, is the true distinction between poet and proseman: a writer may be many things besides a poet; he may be a warrior like Æschylus, he may be a man of business like Shakespeare, he may be a courtier like Chaucer, or a cosmopolitan philosopher like Goethe; but the moment the poetic mood is upon him all the trappings of the world with which, for years, he has been clothing his soul—the world's knowingness, its cynicism, its self-seekings, and its ambitions,—all these fall away, and the man becomes an inspired child again with ears attuned to nothing but "the whispers of the gods." What such a man produces may delight and astonish greatly his readers, yet not so much as it delights and astonishes himself. His passages of pathos draw no tears so deep and so sweet as those that fall from his own eyes as he writes; his sublime passages over-awe no soul so imperiously as they over-awe his own; his humour draws no laughter so rich and so deep as that which is stirred within his own breast.

In short, Sincerity and Conscience are the two angels that bring to the poet the wonders

of the poetic dream. And of these two angels what did the Opium-Eater know? A man's temper may be far too literary for a poet. There is a poem of Chamisso's in which an artist nails a youth to the cross that he may witness his death; the story is told for truth of Ribera; and the Hungarian poet Lenau declared that he would willingly crucify himself if only a good poem could be the result of his agonies. This is exactly the literary temperament in its elfish condition, as exemplified in Edgar Poe, De Quincey, Baudelaire, and many contemporary French imaginative writers. Poe, however, could get out of this mood now and then, and pass into the truly poetic. De Quincey does not seem to have done so, nor even tried to do so. Yet he had a fine imagination; his kinship with Poe, indeed, lay in the fact that these two combined more of analytic power with more of the imaginative than any other writers in our century. Moreover, Poe was well conscious that the merely definite, though frequently a great power, could often be grievously out of place in poetry. "The indefinite," said he (*Democratic Review*, 1844), "is an element in the true *poïesis*,"—and he was right; but De Quincey could never let slip his logic. Like the framer of an Act of Parliament, he must always try to cover his idea with language instead of being content to let language partly cover and partly suggest the idea. Gorgeous and musical as is his language in the 'Confessions,' it is always aware of itself, always informed by the mere literary conscience, and is never the voice of the poet. Of the mere mechanism of literary art, and especially of its tricks, no writer of his time had such an instinctive apprehension as De Quincey; and these have been analyzed by Prof. W. Minto with an acuteness which sets his paper on De Quincey's style above anything else that has been written upon that subject. Prof. Minto, however, seems to believe in De Quincey's humour more than we find it possible to do. To us De Quincey's humour seems at its best mere *espièglerie*, at its worst that ponderous affected jauntiness or Edinburgh humour which is so distressing a feature of old volumes of *Blackwood*.

Prof. Masson, while believing to some degree in De Quincey as a humourist, uses a phrase which unconsciously characterizes Edinburgh humour. He speaks of the "clever" humour of such stories as 'The Incognito, or Count Fitzhum,' and 'The King of Hayti.' Now all the humour of De Quincey is clever, but unfortunately humour, except in Edinburgh, is not clever. It is wit that is clever, not humour. Nothing can be more clever than the paper on 'Murder considered as one of the Fine Arts.' To treat the most dreadful of all crimes as a slight misdemeanour is clever, ingenious, but essentially unhumorous. Yet it is witty. De Quincey's so-called humour, indeed, is like that of the London wit Douglas Jerrold in this, that it is really wit in solution. It only needs compression into epigram for its true nature to be at once apparent. And, as in Jerrold's case, when in quest of humour, an intellect of quite phenomenal brightness becomes ponderous and elephantine. There are in De Quincey long sweeps of writing which for dreariness of futile effort can only be

compared with certain scenes in 'The Man made of Money' and 'St. Giles's and St. James's.' The fact is that humour cannot be manufactured as wit can—it must be felt; and here again we find De Quincey out of relation to those two beneficent angels of poetry, Sincerity and Conscience.

What will be the future fate of De Quincey as a great English prose-writer? is a question which has been often asked and variously answered. As a consummate artificer of English prose he is to be ranked with the greatest names. No one has achieved more marvels of prose architecture than he; or, rather, as we have on a former occasion said, he is like the nightingale of the Spanish poet, a bird of many voices. But the question is, Had De Quincey a voice of his own? Had he really and truly anything to say even in so comparatively narrow a field as that of literary criticism? That he was a bookman pure and simple is undeniable; but then so was Landor, and yet Landor had something of his own to say. He told us that Christianity had had its day—that Hellenism was not only eternally beautiful but eternally practicable—and talked a deal of charming nonsense thereon, but nonsense of his own. Now De Quincey's voice is the voice of a silver trumpet undoubtedly, and the notes of the silver trumpet are fine indeed; but if the lips behind it are those of Coleridge and of Wordsworth, the question of the lasting vitality of De Quincey's work becomes involved in the larger question, How much of vitality is there in a critical system based entirely on that form of the old cosmogony called "High Church Pantheism," the natural outcome of which was the poetry of Wordsworth and the criticisms of Prof. Wilson and De Quincey? A critic who could speak of Shelley and Keats as De Quincey has spoken of them can hardly, perhaps, deserve serious attention on his own account.

#### NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

*Stanley Brereton.* By W. Harrison Ainsworth. 3 vols. (Routledge & Sons.)

*Time and Chance.* By Mrs. Tom Kelly. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

*Self-Sacrifice.* By Theo. Monro. (Remington & Co.)

*The Story of Penelope.* By E. J. Worboise. (Clarke & Co.)

THAT veteran novelist Mr. Harrison Ainsworth has taken new ground in his latest novel, and transferred to modern life all that grave circumstantiality and redundancy of the wildest incidents which used to be suitable enough to the "historical" romances which delighted our boyhood. Duels, suicides, and elopements are thickly scattered throughout his pages, and not a line is devoted to a reflection or an idea apart from the business of the narrative. It is not without some relief that we miss the subjective element which has lately overgrown the last vestiges of inventive skill, but the naïve immorality of all the characters, or rather personages, in 'Stanley Brereton' forms a somewhat violent contrast. Even the mysterious nun, "Sister Aline," who crops out in an unexpected way at the leading crises of the story, is more effective as a sort of priestess than as a moralist, and is quite

as efficient in cursing as in the blessings which she is oddly invited to bestow from time to time. It is impossible to give any account of the eccentricities of the plot. One of its leading features is the elopement of Brereton's first wife, Mildred, with a man whom he afterwards kills in a duel. He takes his wife back, and when she fails in health is looking forward to marrying another lady, to whom he has always been attached, but is disappointed by Mildred's recovery. He is, however, equal to the occasion, for he persuades her to ride a restive horse, which runs away with and kills her, leaving her time to express a dying wish that her rival may succeed her as Brereton's wife.

In spite of a little tendency to the high-flown and bombastic where the author is endeavouring to express the yearnings of the artists Ruy and Ingha, on the whole the story of these lovers is well told in 'Time and Chance.' Ruy has been brought up as the heir presumptive to a large fortune, and, when his uncle breaks his promise of celibacy and cuts him out of the succession, betakes himself, with another youth whose prospects have been clouded, to the diamond fields in South Africa. The African part of the story is very well told. There is a good deal of pathos in Archie's struggle, ending in success too late, and some aspects of diggers' life are vividly described. The author is much less happy in dealing with Scotland. There is no verisimilitude about the names of places. In the Highlands, by a strange confusion, she places the "Castle of Montgomery"; in that region she speaks of people "of different ilks," and generally disports herself in such a manner as to drive a *seannachie* or an antiquary to despair. But this will not detract from the enjoyment of that large circle of readers who are as ignorant as herself of everything connected with the northern portion of the kingdom.

Lovers of the ghastly will be pleased with 'Self-Sacrifice.' A mysterious double murder results first in the condemnation of the young widow of one of the victims, and then in the arrest, trial, and sentence, on his own confession, of her lover, who is saved on the verge of the gallows by the confession of the real culprit. It is a thoroughly black bit of villainy all round, and told with a certain amount of ingenuity, as it is not till near the end that the reader becomes certain of the real culprit. The widow Bingham and Captain Chester supply a certain relief to the sombreness of the main story.

Penelope's proverbial patience would be required thoroughly to digest the closely printed volume in which Miss Worboise deals with the history of her modern anti-type. The story is wonderfully full of matter; numerous births, deaths, and marriages occur, and we are concerned with the biographies of an immense number of persons. The best part of the book, which has most of the author's merits and defects, is certainly the heroine's character, which is improved by the stern experiences as well as the happier episodes of her life, and is only defective occasionally in some of its religious utterances. It would not be possible exactly to cite an instance of this; but some sentences of devotion read almost grotesquely as thanksgiving that the heroine

is not as others are, and have the slightest touch of the "suave mari magno" spirit about them. The clerical element is not wanting, of course; but Miss Worboise is not quite so severe upon the Church as she used to be; there is only one grossly vulgar and foolish Anglican parson. The hero, who succeeds in winning Penelope to a second marriage, is an aristocratic Dissenting minister; but her first husband, who is also a clergyman, is an inoffensive specimen of the Church of England. On the whole, we think the writer's reputation will not be lessened by this book; but though it has considerable merits, its plan is too unwieldy to be as effectively handled as it might have been.

#### CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

*Hoodie.* By Mrs. Molesworth. (Routledge & Sons.)

*The Adventures of Herr Baby.* By Mrs. Molesworth. (Macmillan & Co.)

*Unravell'd Skeins: Tales for the Twilight.* By Gregson Gow. (Blackie & Son.)

*Cross Patch, and other Stories.* By Susan Coolidge. (Bogue.)

*Ringworth; or, the Aim of a Life.* By C. R. Colledge. (Masters & Co.)

*The Woodleighs of Amscott.* By Mrs. Mortimer Collins and Percy Cotton. (Sonnenschein & Allen.)

*Under the Shield: a Tale.* By M. E. Winchester. (Seeley, Jackson & Halliday.)

*Juvenile Wit and Humour; or, Five Hundred Wise, Witty, and Waggish Sayings of Young People.* Collected and Edited by D. Shearer. (Edinburgh, Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)

*Great Grandmother's Shoes.* By Stella Austin. (Masters & Co.)

*Chirps for the Chicks.* By M. E. Winchester. (Seeley, Jackson & Halliday.)

*Jim's Treasure; or, Saved from the Wreck.* By A. K. H. Forbes. (Edinburgh, Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)

*Five Little Peppers and How they Grew.* By Margaret Sidney. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

'HOODIE' is the story of a rather naughty little girl, who is converted to the paths of virtue by an illness. Like many children, she has a morbid idea that she is not a favourite, and this for a time acts badly on her character. The pictures are the best part of the book.

'The Adventures of Herr Baby' is also written by Mrs. Molesworth, and it is charmingly illustrated by Mr. Walter Crane. The tale is a complete little drama, with a catastrophe and all the rest of it. Although the climax is nothing more dreadful than that a child is lost for an hour and easily and naturally found, yet the little piece is so delicately, truly, and carefully wrought out that it has what painters call solidity in perfection, and the plot is affecting. By affecting we do not mean sorrowful, for the story is as happy and healthy as it is faithful. The little hero is just such a man child as a woman longs for. This is a book of which one would like to buy dozens of copies and give them to all the people one cared for.

'Unravell'd Skeins' are most of them of thrilling interest, some of them of a weird mysterious character. They are well told, and display a good deal of thought and power, but it may be doubted whether they afford wholesome food for the minds of the young people for whose use they are written.

Mr. Bogue is the English publisher of an ingenious American development of some of the legends of Mother Goose, which, in spite of presenting a good many verbal puzzles to English children (and grown people, too), is written in a bright, healthy manner, and conveys much valuable morality for old and young. 'The Old Woman who Lived in the Shoe' and 'Simple Simon' are very laughable.

A glance at the frontispiece of 'Ringworth' shows that the very ugly gentleman depicted in it is somewhat of a villain, and that he is having some difference of opinion with the lady on the hearthrug. It is the result of this difference that his daughter Katherine and her cousin Emberance are brought up in the circumstances in which we afterwards find them respectively, and that Katherine has the opportunity of proving that she is not inferior to her mother in generosity. The characters of the girls are not badly contrasted, and there is some distinctness in the outlines of Mrs. George and others.

'The Woodleighs of Amscote,' is chiefly remarkable for the curious badness of the illustrations, which are something between the plates in a modern fashion-book and the illuminations of an Anglo-Saxon missal. Perhaps the most laughable is that in which the hero, in trousers and boots which must have been cut out of a tailor's advertisement sheet, is standing sideways, propounding a delicate question to a young lady from Madame Elise's, who is gazing at the reader, evidently unconscious of her lover's presence. The story runs well enough, the moral being the danger to rectitude incurred by a City life, brokership, in fact, of all kinds. The hero marries a lady and becomes a clergyman instead of continuing in the "business." It would be difficult, however, at present for the world to do quite without middlemen, as Mrs. Collins seems to wish.

We welcome with real pleasure another book from the author of 'A Nest of Sparrows.' 'Under the Shield' is to be noted for its purity of tone and high aspiration; it is good, but not "good." There is true fun in the book too, half pathetic though it be, as in the picture of old Betty Dempster, who longs to "be dun with the bubbles of this life." Bubbles, it should be explained, are troubles, so called because they "keep a-bursting and a-bursting, when people least expects it." And there is the scamp Basil, whom at first we hate for his mean cruelty to brave little Harold, but who slowly blunders out of his bad ways and shows that there is something good in him after all. Little Harold is the good genius of the book, yet he is not the perfect being on whom we are apt to look with suspicion, but only a boy who tries with all his might to follow the good teaching of his dead mother; he is very human and very lovable.

'Juvenile Wit and Humour' is not a children's book. It is dedicated to the fathers and mothers of very clever children, and purports to be "Five Hundred Wise, Witty, and Waggish Sayings of Young People." We have wearily plodded through the book, and can find in it little either of wit or of wisdom. There are some good stories, of course, but there is infinite dulness and not a little vulgarity.

'Great Grandmother's Shoes' is a very pretty story, though strangely sad in the end. Karl Somerset is a fine character, and Kinfoo, the faithful Chinaman, is a grotesque figure and yet pathetic in his devotion to his "little master." The caprices of the little girls make graceful by-play.

The reader will find in 'Chirps for the Chicks' the solution of many problems which must hitherto have puzzled the children's minds. Here is a new version of 'Sing a Song of Sixpence,' with a full account of what the blackbird did with the nose. Here, too, is the ancient ditty of naughty 'Daddy Longlegs,' with the subsequent adventures of that misguided insect, and many other old rhymes with new endings.

'Jim's Treasure' is a rather commonplace story of a working lad, a wicked father, and treasure trove.

The five little Peppers are a wonderful family. They are extremely poor, and some of them are scaramouches, but they have a certain charm about them which attracts rich and benevolent friends, and their fortune is made. These young prodigies are American. Their history is amusing; the language, however, is a little too

colloquial, and the illustrations are hardly as good as they might be.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE German work on Russia which Mrs. Chester has adapted, under the title of *Russia, Past and Present* (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), is a fair and trustworthy compilation. In its present English form it deserves a cordial welcome, as a book from which a great deal of general information may be gathered, which may assist in dispelling much ignorance and prejudice. In some respects, especially as regards the early history of Russia, the adaptation is decidedly an improvement on the original of MM. Lankenau and Oelnitz. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge deserves credit for having made so useful a handbook easily accessible, and has been fortunate in obtaining an able and judicious adapter. There is no need to enter into details about 'Russia, Past and Present.' It will be sufficient to say that it describes, and, as a general rule, describes well, the physical features of the Russian empire, and gives an evidently impartial and usually accurate account of its inhabitants; so that the painstaking reader of this handy volume will be able, with the aid of a little imagination, to obtain something like a bird's-eye view of the great section of the world with which it deals, and to arrive at approximately accurate conclusions with respect to the many millions who are combined into that great division of mankind which we style the Russian nation.

FROM Mr. Paterson, of Edinburgh, we have received the first instalment of a *Dictionary of the Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature of Great Britain*, by the late Samuel Halkett, Keeper of the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, and the late Rev. John Laing, Librarian of the New College Library, Edinburgh. From "A" to "E" is included in the handsome volume now issued. Criticism upon the execution must be deferred until the appearance of another volume, or possibly until the completion of the work.

ACCORDING to the thirty-third annual Report of the Salford Free Libraries there has been but a small increase latterly in the number of books, owing to a want of funds for the purchase of recent books. Works of fiction form about six-sevenths of the entire issues from the libraries.

MR. PERTHESS has sent us the most valuable of almanacs, the *Almanach de Gotha*. It is impossible not to envy Germany the possession of statisticians so painstaking and persevering as Dr. Behm and his associates. Among the portraits in the new volume is one of President Garfield. Messrs. Goodall have sent us a neat little *Almanac* for the pocket prettily illustrated. — *Fulcher's Ladies' Memorandum Book* (Sudbury, Pratt) still adheres to old fashions, and proves the conservatism of the British public. — We have also on our table the *Melbourne University Calendar* (Melbourne, Brain), which attests the prosperity of the Australian university.

MESSRS. DE LA RUE have sent us a great variety of *Christmas Cards*. This well-known firm is evidently making experiments in various directions, with a view to producing something different from the ordinary types. Several of their ventures are highly successful; others, naturally enough, are open to criticism. Some of the single figures are exceedingly graceful. Tasteful design combined with ornate colouring characterizes the best of this show of cards, which is worthy of the high reputation of the publishers. — Mr. Ackermann's cards are deserving of attention. He sends us a pretty fan, which will form a card highly acceptable to girls. He publishes also six more designs by Miss E. G. Thomson, in which fairies play the chief part. The same publisher is agent for the Christmas cards of Mr. Prang, of Boston, U.S. These differ considerably from their English rivals, and the

arrangements of flowers are excellent. The treatment of figures is less happy.

WE have on our table *Young Japan*, 2 vols., by J. R. Black (Trübner). — *Norsk, Lapp, and Finn*, by F. Vincent (Low). — *The Nightless North, a Walk across Lapland*, by F. L. H. Morrice (Cambridge, Jones & Piggott). — *Great Orators and Divines* (Edinburgh, Nimmo). — *The Bibliography of the pre-Columbian Discoveries of America*, by P. B. Watson (Boston, U.S., the Author). — *China Imperial Maritime Customs, Opium* (Shanghai, Statistical Department). — *The Violin*, by a Professional Player (Edinburgh, Köhler & Son). — *How the French took Algiers*, by J. Latchmore (Edinburgh, Oliphant & Co.). — *The Best of Chums*, by R. Richardson (Edinburgh, Oliphant & Co.). — *Forget-me-nots*, by E. Lee (Simpkin). — *Black and White*, by H. A. Forde (S.P.C.K.). — *The Boy's Mabinogion*, edited by S. Lanier (Low). — *Stories about Dogs*, by Mrs. Surr (Nelson). — *Little Tiny's Book of One Syllable* (Routledge). — *The Story of Androclus and the Lion* (Seeley). — *Shakespearean Tales in Verse*, by Mrs. Valentine (Warne). — *The Mistletoe Bough*, edited by M. E. Braddon (Maxwell). — *The Girl's Own Annual*, Vol. II. (The 'Leisure Hour' Office). — *The Fireside Annual*, edited by the Rev. C. Bullock ('Home Words' Office). — *The Sunday at Home* (R.T.S.). — *The Last Supper of our Lord*, by J. M. Lang (Edinburgh, Macniven & Wallace). — *Called to be Saints*, by C. G. Rossetti (S.P.C.K.). — *The Life of the Soul in the World*, by F. C. Woodhouse (S.P.C.K.). — *The Philosophy of the Dispensations*, by D. Milne (Bogue). — *Thomas Carlyle*, by E. Oswald (Trübner). — *Russische Novellen*, by N. Gogol (Stuttgart, Spemann). — *Das System der Künste*, by Max Schasler (Leipzig, Friedrich).

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

##### ENGLISH.

##### Theology.

- Hagenbach's (Dr. K. R.) *History of Christian Doctrine*, Vol. 3, 8vo. 10/6 cl.  
Hobson's (Rev. J. P.) *Scripture Echoes in our Church's Collects*, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Martensen's (Dr. H.) *Christian Ethics: Special Part, Individual Ethics*, translated by W. Affleck, 8vo. 10/6 cl.  
Meyer's *Commentary on the New Testament: Epistles of Peter and Jude*, by Dr. J. E. Huther, 8vo. 10/6 cl.; *The Pastoral Epistles, Timothy and Titus*, by Dr. J. E. Huther, 8vo. 10/6 cl.  
Pennefather's (Mrs.) *Follow Thou Me, Service*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Prize Bible (The) told in Simple Words, 4to. 12/6 cl.  
Rainsford's (Rev. M.) *Straight Paths for your Feet*, 2/6 cl.  
Thorold's (A. W.) *Gospel of Christ*, 12mo. 4/6 cl.

##### Fine Art.

- Lee's (V.) *Belcaro, being Essays on Sundry Aesthetic Questions*, cr. 8vo. 8/ cl.  
Living Painters of France and England, 15 Etchings, 25/ cl.  
South Kensington Museum, *Examples of the Works of Art*, &c., Vol. 2, folio, 21/ cl.

##### Drama.

- Baker's (H. B.) *Our Old Actors*, Popular Edition, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
*Geography and Travel*.  
Blackwood's (Lady A.) *Narrative of Personal Experiences and Impressions during a Residence on the Bosphorus*, 7/6 cl.  
Geddie's (J.) *Beyond the Himalayas, a Story of Travel and Adventure in the Wilds of Tibet*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Oliphant's (L.) *Land of Kheini, Up and Down the Middle Nile*, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.

##### Philology.

- Moon's (G. W.) *The Revisers' English*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Plauti Captivi, translated with Notes by A. Stewart, 4/6 swd.

##### General Literature.

- Allen's (G.) *Vignettes from Nature*, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Daunt's (A.) *The Three Trappers*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Dorothy, or Getting One's Own Way, a Story for Children, by G. E. R., 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Kingsbury's (E.) *Thoughts on Marriage*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Owen's (E. S.) *The Whittier Birthday Book*, 18mo. 3/6 cl.  
Payne's (J.) *From Exile*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Roe's (E. P.) *Without a Home*, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.  
Shadbolt's (S.) *A Moonbeam's Tangle*, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Simpson's (E. B.) *Dogs of Other Days*, 12mo. 4/6 cl.  
Story of a Nursery Rhyme, by C. B., illus. by M. Hooper, 2/6 cl.  
Surr's (Mrs.) *Stories about Dogs*, 4to. 3/6 cl.; *Cats*, 4to. 3/6 cl.  
Wilson's (Rev. T. P.) *Great Heights gained by Steady Efforts*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.

##### FOREIGN.

##### Theology.

- Bonwetsch (G. N.): *Die Geschichte d. Montanismus*, 4m.  
Bredenkamp (C. J.): *Gesetz u. Propheten*, 3m.

##### Lanc.

- Bruns (C. G.): *Kleinere Schriften*, 2 vols. 20m.  
Corpus Juris Canonici, Ed. Lipsiensis II., rec. Aem. Friedberg, Concluding Part, 4m.

##### Fine Art and Archaeology.

- Album des Artistes Scandinaves, Quatorze Dessins Originaux, 30fr.

Beaumont (É. de): *L'Épée et les Femmes*, avec Cinq Dessins inédits de Meissonnier, 30fr.  
 Buchholz (E.): *Die Homerischen Realien*, Vol. 2, Part 1, 6m.  
 Collinet (E.) et Beaumont (A. de): *Les Ornaments du Japon*, Recueil de Dessins pour l'Art et l'Industrie, 1st Series, 30fr.  
 Exposition des Beaux-Arts, Salon de 1881, 50fr.  
 Fühlich (J. Ritter v.): *Die Legende vom heiligen Wendelin in 13 Zeichngn.*, 24m.  
 Helfner-Altenack (J. H. v.): *Ornamente der Holzsculptur von 1450 bis 1820*, Parts 2-5, 16m.  
 Laspeyres (P.): *Die Kirchen der Renaissance in Mittel-Italien*, Part 1, 2m. 50.

*History and Biography.*

Curtius (E.): *Alterthum u. Gegenwart*, Vols. 1 and 2, 14m.  
 Dittfurth (Frz. W. Frhr. v.): *Die Historisch-Politischen Volkslieder d. Dreissigjährigen Krieger*, 12m.

*Geography and Travel.*

Baumgarten (J.): *Der Orient*, 4m. 80.  
 Fuchs (R.): *Loose Blätter aus dem Orient*, 2m. 40.  
 Kappeler (A.): *Holländisch-Guiana*, 6m.  
 Marger (P.): *Mémoires pour servir à l'Histoire des Origines Françaises des Pays d'Outre-mer*, Vol. 4, 15fr.

*Philology.*

Clemm (G.): *De Breviloquentia Tacita*, 3m.  
 Philologische Untersuchungen, hrsg. v. Kiessling und v. Wilmowitz-Moellendorf, 6m.  
 Tacit (Cornell) *Dialogus de Oratoribus*, rec. Aem. Baehrens, 2m.  
 Uhlig (G.): *Appendix Artis Dionysii Thracis*, 1m. 60.  
 Valdés (Juan de): *El Salterio*, traducción del Hebreo, 10m.  
 Walther v. der Vogelweide, *Gedichte*, hrsg. v. H. Paul, 1m. 80.

*Science.*

Botanischer Jahresbericht, hrsg. v. L. Just: 6 Jahrg. (1878), Section 2, Part 2, 5m. 60; 7 Jahrg. (1879), Section 1, Part 1, and Section 2, Part 1, 18m. 40.  
 Jahresbericht der Chemie, hrsg. v. F. Pittica, für 1880, Part 2, 10m.

*General Literature.*

Boisgobey (Fortuné du): *Le Crime de l'Omnibus*, 3fr. 50.  
 Brandes (G.): *Moderne Geister*, 9m.  
 Goncourt (E. de): *La Faustine*, 3fr. 50.  
 Reinach (J.): *Les Récidivistes*, 3fr. 50.

CHATTERTON.

It is singular that one so surrounded by Chatterton references as is Mr. John Taylor should have been so easily imposed upon by the palpable fabrication communicated by him to your last number. The imposture is too gross to rank with the Chatterton inquest story, the spuriousness of which was thoroughly proved by Mr. Moy Thomas in the *Athenæum* (December 5th, 1857). Thomas Chatterton, the schoolmaster, whose hand Mr. Taylor deems shown by "the firm, round, schoolmaster's style of penmanship" in which the "unquestionably genuine" inscriptions are made, died August 7th, 1752, and his son Thomas, a posthumous child, was not born until November 20th of the same year; therefore the father could not have been the author of that record. Nor could he, nor any of the family, have made the minute inscription of Mary's birth, as it antedates that event by two years. Nor could the forgery have been perpetrated by any one very conversant with the time and place to which it refers, as no such clergyman as the Rev. Wm. Williams or the Rev. Mr. Giles held benefices in Bristol during the last century. The Rev. Thomas Broughton was Vicar of St. Mary Redcliff from 1744 to 1772.

The "particulars not to be found in the biographies," which Mr. Taylor contends are afforded by the inscriptions in this family Bible, may, therefore, be reduced to two, viz., that the maiden name of the poet's mother was "Young," information certainly not in "the biographies," and that the poet had a brother, and that that brother was christened by the suggestive names of "Giles Malpas," a circumstance certainly overlooked by all investigators. Before either of these data can be embodied in future biographies, however, some more satisfactory evidence of their authenticity must be produced. This hitherto unknown boy, it should be noticed, was born in the same year as Mary Chatterton's birth really took place.

These inscriptions bear a suspicious resemblance to a memorandum extracted by Catcott, "the Rowley midwife," "from a manuscript of Chatterton's father's writing in a blank leaf of a family Bible," i.e., the one hoax evidently suggested the other. As regards the name of "Chadderdon," it may be pointed out that "the biographies" do furnish that as the ancient form of spelling, and the poet himself was presented to Colston's Hospital as "Tho. Chadderton,"

so unsettled was the orthography even then. Perhaps it is scarcely worth while to ask the courteous librarian of the Bristol Museum to obtain further particulars of this book from the "dealer in curiosities" in whose possession it now is; no sooner is its true character displayed than the quarto will doubtless disappear. Poor Chatterton, whose character and life I have endeavoured to portray truly in a forthcoming article in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, was forced into palming off his best work as the production of others, and in return, ever since his death, he has been made the victim of unscrupulous fabricators. I could point to a large quantum of rubbish foisted on the public as by "the marvellous boy" that is not his work at all. Even so careful an editor as Prof. Skeat has been betrayed into including in his useful two-volume edition of the material works of Chatterton the unfortunate lad had nothing whatever to do with. "Thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges."

JOHN H. INGRAM.

RIVAL MAGAZINES.

December 12, 1881.

I DID not intend in my former letter to bring any charge against Mr. H. B. Wheatley. Moreover, since Mr. Wheatley has gravely announced in the first number of the *Bibliographer* that "the time will not be far distant when bibliography shall become a physical science," I am, on my own account, most anxious to acquit Mr. Wheatley of any lack of originality. But I must deny the accuracy of Mr. Wheatley's account of our interview. I saw him in reference to my scheme on the 14th of October, 1880. I never saw, nor had any communication with, Mr. Stock until the 1st of November. I cannot, therefore, have told Mr. Wheatley at that interview anything whatever about Mr. Stock's offer, which was only made, in fact, on the 15th of November. There is hardly anything, indeed, in Mr. Wheatley's account of our conversation to which I should not take exception, if my complaint were against him, and not against his principal, Mr. Stock.

Now, as to Mr. Stock's letter. Certain people, we are told, should have long memories. They should also be very careful how they commit themselves to paper. Mr. Stock's account of our negotiations in your last issue is not only entirely inconsistent with an account put down by him upon paper in a letter to me of last September, but, what is more important, is entirely disproved by the letters which constituted the greater part of our negotiations.

Mr. Stock's account now is, that I proposed to him a scheme for a librarians' medium, to be identified with the Library Association, which he pronounced to be unworkable; and that he then suggested a scheme of his own. Now the full title of the journal as shown to Mr. Stock with a specimen table of contents was the *Serapeum: a Monthly Journal of Bibliology and Bibliography*. The prospectus, also shown him, stated in its first paragraph that the journal would be quite independent of the Association. The second paragraph then went on: "It will not confine itself, again, to technical librarianship, but will be addressed to the users of libraries, and to book lovers and book students as well. It will cover the whole field of bibliography and bibliography, including literary history." I am quite willing to allow the world to decide whether Mr. Stock's account of my proposal to him is a correct one. Again, when Mr. Stock says he rejected my scheme and proposed one of his own, I only ask whether that is the proper construction to be put upon the following extracts from letters written to me by Mr. Stock. I must explain that I only saw Mr. Stock once, on the 1st of November, 1880, when he talked of making suggestions, but made none, except that he did not like the title. On the 3rd I sent him a copy of my title-page and prospectus, and then followed these letters from him:—

November 4th, 1880.—"I like the plan of the

magazine sent, and can see several points which will bear improvement yet further. The scheme seems a promising one, and I should like to go into it with you."

November 10th.—"In thinking over the arrangement needful for the bringing out of the proposed publication in the interests of the Library Association, it has occurred to me that the difficulty we came to with regard to the mode of publication when we talked the matter over might best be got over by my engaging to pay a given sum each month for editorial expenses, and a royalty on the sales beyond a given number sold per month."

November 15th.—"I could produce a magazine like the *Antiquary* (except that it would not be on hand-made paper), take the proceeds, and pay 10% per month for editorial expenses, and a royalty of 10s. per 100 for all sold beyond 1,000 copies. This offer is contingent on certain features being introduced into the magazine, concerning which I will see you further later on."

In these letters Mr. Stock again stipulated for delay until the spring, to which I had already rejoined that we had better wait in that case until the autumn—the very time, in fact, which Mr. Stock has chosen to bring out the *Bibliographer*.

In September, 1881, Mr. Wheatley showed to Mr. Stock a letter from me which led Mr. Stock to write to me as follows (September 12th):—"If any further action had been taken by the Association or yourself, I should have been only ready enough to have carried out an arrangement for the issue of the journal. [This is the scheme which Mr. Stock declares in your columns he told me "would not pay its expenses."] It was only on the supposition that you had abandoned the idea of publishing that I determined to bring out the *Bibliographer*."

This last admission effectually disposes of Mr. Stock's statement that his scheme is not substantially on my plan; and that I had not dropped my plan Mr. Stock had written evidence in his possession to show.

ERNEST C. THOMAS.

P.S.—When Mr. Stock asks in his postscript against what I wish to set the literary public upon their guard, to this direct challenge I have to answer that Mr. Stock is the only person who is likely to ask this question, and, at all events, Mr. Stock is the only person who can fully answer it.

THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

THE Foreign Translation Committee of the Christian Knowledge Society was put on a new basis in July last, and is now busily at work in the enlarged sphere which was then assigned to it. The previous labours of the Committee were confined to the production of foreign versions of the Bible and Prayer Book. The Committee is now empowered to publish any works which it may think conducive to the spread of Christian knowledge.

The following works are now either going through the press or have been lately issued:—  
 In Yao (spoken on the East Coast of Africa), portions of the Prayer Book.

In Boondei (East Africa), a grammar and a vocabulary containing English-Boondei and Boondei-English.

In Luganda (Uganda Mission, Central Africa), a grammar.

In Susu (West Africa), New Testament.

In Yoruba (West Africa), Catechism.

In Turkish, a new version of the Book of Common Prayer. This version has been prepared by Dr. Koelle, and a learned Ulemah, Ahmed Tewfik Effendi, who is now in this country. It will be remembered that the latter was condemned to death by the Ottoman authorities for the part he took in this work, and that he was saved by the intervention of the British Government.

In Persian, portions of the Prayer Book.  
 In Russian, portions of the Prayer Book.  
 In Ojibway (North America), the Book of Common Prayer.  
 In Cree syllabics (North America), Book of Common Prayer.  
 In Florida (spoken in Solomon Islands, Pacific), portions of the Book of Common Prayer.  
 In Isabel (Solomon Islands), portions of the Book of Common Prayer and the Gospels.  
 In Maori (New Zealand), outlines of Scripture history.  
 In Hindi (North-West India), Catechism, Prayer, &c.  
 In addition to the foregoing, which will be printed in London, the Committee have several important works in hand in India and elsewhere.

## THE AMWAS INSCRIPTION.

Oxford, Dec. 12, 1881.

MR. BESANT'S explanation of the contradiction in the Amwas inscription, viz., "that while the Phœnician type of the letters would take us back to a period very much before our era, the Greek characters belong to the fifth or sixth century," is inadmissible. He says: "The seeming contradiction can be explained by the existence of an artificial archaism which existed in Syria, by which the old character was continued on coins and in such inscriptions as this long after the square character had come into use. An example of this may be found in the coins of Barcochebas." In the first instance, Barcochebas's coins are of the second century and not of the fifth or the sixth, when every trace of Phœnician characters in Syria and Palestine had disappeared except with the Samaritans. Secondly, even at the time of Barcochebas the Phœnician characters were no longer used in Palestine; coins of olden time with archaic Hebrew type, however, were still current, and Barcochebas used them as a model. Finally, if the archaic Hebrew type had been used in Syria for such inscriptions as late as the fifth or the sixth century, it could only have been so by Jews; and in that case the Amwas inscription would turn out to be Jewish, consequently *ἐς θεός* would be the translation of *Yehovah chad* (Deut. vi. 5), "the Lord is one." Possibly the circular inscription is to be read *θεός ἐς*. I am anxious to read M. Ganneau's treatise on the subject, for he is certainly one of the most competent judges of Semitic antiquities.

A. NEUBAUER.

## CINDERELLA.

Rosendale Hall, West Dulwich.

I QUITE agree with my friend Mr. Gomme that the *Athenæum* is not the place to discuss folk-tales, and my answer to his last letter shall be brief.

In none of the versions of Cinderella that I am acquainted with is any stress laid upon her being either the eldest or the youngest daughter, but the male Cinderella, Goldenlocks, is almost always the youngest son; Cinderella is put upon and looked down upon by her (step-)sisters, Goldenlocks is scorned and jeered at by his elder brethren; both are closely connected with the hearth and its ashes, and are, indeed, nicknamed therefrom. Mr. Gomme would say this is because in the primitive household the eldest daughter tended the hearth flame; Mr. Lang, because in the primitive household the hearth was the inheritance of the youngest. Either explanation may well have nothing to do with the story, but, of the two, the latter strikes me as being the most plausible.

I must take exception to the epithet "inconstant" applied to popular tradition. Surely the most marked feature of that same tradition is its constancy and the abiding testimony it bears to the fact that, whilst the attitude of educated man toward the universe has changed radically, the "folk" still reasons and believes

much as did primitive man ages ago, or savage man at the present day.

ALFRED NUTT.

## MR. SWINBURNE'S 'MARY STUART.'

I OBSERVE that critics are treating Mr. Swinburne's 'Mary Stuart' as a work of his maturity, in contrast with 'Chastelard,' a work of his youth. 'Chastelard' was published in 1865; but part of 'Mary Stuart,' at least, was written as early as 1868. I find the splendid lines on Mary (now put in the mouth of Sir Drew Drury) in the remarks on the Royal Academy which Mr. Swinburne published in 1868 (p. 38). How, then, can the literary style of 'Chastelard' and 'Mary Stuart' be spoken of as "scarcely recognizable as proceeding from the same pen"? A. L.

\* \* \* The first act of Mr. Swinburne's play was written several years ago, and so possibly was a short piece of the second, but the fact is of small consequence, for this portion of the work was much altered by the poet when he lately resumed work on his drama. That the style of 'Mary Stuart' is entirely different from 'Chastelard' is so obvious that no critic can help seeing it.

## THE SUNDERLAND LIBRARY.

THIS remarkable sale has for the present come to a conclusion, as the next instalment of the collection will be dispersed in the spring. Upon the whole, prices were wonderfully well sustained to the close. In another column we have mentioned the principal acquisitions made by the British Museum, which show that Mr. Bullen took full advantage of his opportunity. The books which fetched sensation prices were mostly knocked down to Mr. Quaritch, and little was bought on American account; but very possibly Mr. Pearson, Mr. Quaritch, &c., may find customers in the States for some of their purchases. Mr. Simpson is to be congratulated on the able manner in which he conducted the sale. The following is a record of the chief events of the last five days:—

Biblia Sacra, Vulgate editionis, Rome, 1590, first edition of the Sixtine Bible, 78*l.*; the second and revised edition of the preceding, 1592, 29*l.* Biblia Sacra Latina, 8 vols., with the royal arms of Denmark on the sides, Parisiis, 1642, 41*l.* Biblia Anglica: The Byble in Englyshe of the largest and greatest volume, Archbishop Cranmer's or the Great Bible, folio, E. Whitechurch, 1541, 115*l.* The Byble in Englyshe, 1549, a reprint of the preceding, but defective, 25*l.* Bible, with the arms and initials "E. R." of Queen Elizabeth, 1595, 63*l.* Bible, with the arms of King James I., 1619, 61*l.* Bible, King James's or Authorized Version, 3 vols., 1685, 26*l.* Bible, 8vo., Edinb., J. Watson, 1715, 36*l.* Bible, 12mo., Edinb., J. Watson, 1717, 31*l.* 10*s.* Bible, 2 vols., Oxford, on vellum, Baskett, 1517, the edition known as the Vinegar Bible, 255*l.* Bible, 2 vols., Baskerville's edition, 1763, 77*l.* Biblia Gallica, le premier (et le second) volume de la Bible en François, Paris, Jehan Petit, 1520, 31*l.* La Bible, 1535, the first French Bible published by the Protestants, 56*l.* Biblia Gallica, 1535 (imperfect), 29*l.* 10*s.* La Sainte Bible, avec annotations, &c., par M. René Benoist, Paris, 1566, 55*l.* La Sainte Bible Française, Paris, 1621, 40*l.* Biblia Italica, La Bibbia Sacra Vulgarizata per Nic. de Malmi, Venetia, 1481, 26*l.* La Biblia Vulgare, &c., Venetia, Bart. de Zanni, 1502, 55*l.* Biblia Hispanica, Biblia en Lengua Española, 1553, the edition commonly known as the Jews' Bible or the Ferrara Bible, 51*l.* Blacrodæus, Adversus Georgii Buchanani Dialogum, 1581, 20*l.* Blanchon, Les Premières Œuvres Poétiques, 1583, 49*l.* Blarriorio, Opus de Bello Nanciano, 1518, 20*l.* 10*s.* Boccaccio, La Ruine des Nobles Hommes et Femmes, printed at Bruges by Colard Mansion, 1476, 920*l.* Ditto, La Louenge et Vertue des Nobles et Cleres Dames (1493) et Le Rommant

de la Rose (par De Lorris et De Meung), 1493, in 1 vol., 210*l.* Ditto, Il Decamerone, folio (Venet.), 1471, the first edition printed with a date (wanting five leaves), 585*l.* Ditto, the second edition of the Decamerone with a date, 1472, 400*l.* Ditto, Il Decamerone, Firenze, 1516, 38*l.* Ditto, Il Decamerone, Vinegia, 1522, the rare Aldine edition, 111*l.* Ditto, Il Decamerone, Firenze, 1527, the genuine edition of P. di Giunta, 39*l.* Ditto, Incomincia il libro di Madonna Fiametta, no date or place, 29*l.* Ditto, La Teseide, original edition, 1475, 29*l.* Bocchius, Apologia in Plautum, 1508, 21*l.* Bochetel, Le Sacre et Corônement de la Roynie, 1530, et L'entree de la Roynie, 1531, in 1 vol., 66*l.* Boethius, De Consolatione Philosophiæ, Lib. V., 1476, 30*l.* 10*s.* Ditto, Le Grant Boece de Consolacion, Paris, 1494, 136*l.* Bonifacius VIII., Liber Sextus Decretalium, editio princeps, on vellum, 1465, 170*l.* Bossuet, Discourse sur l'Histoire Universelle, 1681, 20*l.* Bossus, De Instituendo Sapientia Animo, 1495, et Eiusdem in Jesu Christi Passione Sermo, 1495, both on vellum, in 1 vol., 58*l.* Ditto, De Instituendo et Sermo Passioni, 50*l.* Bouchard, Les Grâdes Croniques de Bretagne, Paris, Jehan de la Roche, 1514, the most ancient edition known of this Chronicle, 99*l.* Ditto, Les Croniques Annales des pays Dangleterre et Bretagne, 1531, 50*l.* (Willett's copy fetched 21*l.*). Bouchard (Almaricus), Fœminei Sexus Apologia, &c., printed on vellum, 1522, 56*l.* Bouchet, L'Amoureux transy sans Espoir (1503), printed on vellum, and illustrated with twenty miniatures, 640*l.* Ditto, Histoire Genealogique de la Maison Royale de Courtenay, 1661, 33*l.* Boullay, Les Dialogues des troys Estatz de Lorraine, 1543, 48*l.* Discours sur l'Antiquité de Bordeaux, and another, in 1 vol., 24*l.* A collection of ten contemporary tracts on the Reformed Religion by Anne du Bourg and others, 1562-4, 100*l.* Brantius, Stultifera Navis, 1479, 22*l.* (Lake Price's copy sold last year for 12*l.* 5*s.*). Breviarium Portiforium, Antwerp, 1525, with a single sheet broadside entitled 'A Plenary Indulgence to English Catholics,' London, 1526, pasted within the cover, 231*l.* Breidenbach, Sanctarum Peregrinationem in Montem Syon, &c., 1486, 20*l.* Brunus Nolanus, Spaccio de la Bestia Trionfante, 1584, 25*l.* Ditto, De GI'Heroici Furori, 1585, et Cabala del Cavallo Pegaseo, &c., 1585, in 1 vol., 32*l.* 10*s.* Brunus (L. A.), Epistola de Amore Giustardi, &c., et Epistola del Prete Janne, &c., 1478, and another piece, in 1 vol., 24*l.* Ditto, De Bello Italico, editio princeps, Fulginei, 1740, 44*l.* De Bry's Large and Small Voyages, original edition, nearly complete, 1590-1634, 720*l.* De Bry, Emblemata Nobilitatis, 1593, 31*l.* Budeus de Asse et partibus eius, Lib. V., Aldine edition, 1522, 91*l.* Ditto, De l'Institution du Prince, 1547, 20*l.* Buleus, Historia Universitatis Parisiensis, 6 vols., 1665-73, 33*l.* Antique Burgundiorum Leges, on vellum, 21*l.* 10*s.* Burley, Libellus, 1472, Ciceronis de Amicia, &c., in 1 vol., 21*l.* Cesaris Opera, editio princeps, Romæ, per A. Pannartz et C. Sweynheym, 1469, 195*l.* Cesar, Commentariorum liber primus, the second edition of Cesar, printed by N. Jenson, 1471, 68*l.* (Hibbert's copy produced 14*l.* 5*s.*). Ditto, Commentarius primus, Romæ, 1472, the second issue from the press of Sweynheym and Pannartz, 70*l.* Ditto, Commentarii de Bello Gallico, 1473, 24*l.* 10*s.* Ditto, Commentarii, Paris, M. Vasconius, 1583, et Vegetii Renati, 1553, in 1 vol., 49*l.* Ditto, Accuratissimè cum libris editis Samuelis Clarke, 2 vols., 1712, the eighteenth century edition de luxe of Cesar, 101*l.* (the Duke of Grafton's copy produced 64*l.*). Ditto, La Guerre des Suisses, par Louis XIV., Paris, 1651, 22*l.* Callimachus, Hymni Græcè (no date), 49*l.* Carve, Lyra, sive Anacephaleosis Hibernica, 1662, uncut, 21*l.* 10*s.* Las Casas, Obras sobre las Indias, nine pieces complete in 1 vol., 1552-3, 50*l.* Castañeda, eight books in 3 vols., with the autograph of the author, 1552-61, 185*l.* Cas-

tell, A short Discoverie of the Coasts and Continent of America, a tract of a few pages only, 46l. Castiglione, Il Libro del Cortegiano, 1528, Grolier's copy with his name stamped on the binding, 58l. Catulli Opera, cum Tibullo et Propertio, &c., 1475, second edition, 39l. Caxton, Cronycle of Englande (without printer's name or date, but printed with the types of Machlinia), wanting one leaf and having a duplicate of another, 226l. (Sir W. Tite's copy, imperfect, sold for 90l.). Celsus, De Re Medica, Lib. VIII., on vellum, 1528, 133l. Celtis, Libri IV. Amorum, 1502, 32l. Champerius, Croniques d'Austrasio, 1510, 36l. Champier, Les Grans Croniques des Ducs et Princes de Savoye, 1516, 53l. Champlain, Les Voyages de la Nouvelle France, 1632, 79l. The total amount purchased by this the first portion was 19,373l. 10s. 6d.

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF THE MUSEUM.

THE British Museum was particularly fortunate at Col. Grant's sale in securing what was justly regarded as the most interesting article in it, namely, the edition of the 'Ethic Epistles' of Pope, 1743, 4to., in which the character of the Duchess of Marlborough is first given under the name of "Atossa," of which we have spoken more than once. Of the copies that got about the present is, perhaps, the sole survivor. The Museum also acquired the surreptitious reprint of this character on two leaves, issued in 1746. The Museum also purchased at this sale Dr. Johnson's pamphlet on the Falkland Islands, with a cancelled leaf; likewise the first French translation of 'Rasselas,' printed the year after publication; and Swift's 'Directions to Servants,' the first edition, printed in 1745.

At the Comerford sale the Museum acquired numerous lots of valuable topographical works, for the most part privately printed or issued from provincial presses.

At the Sunderland sale the Museum secured as many as eighty-one lots, some of which are exceedingly rare and important works. The edition of Æsop by Pynson, printed in 1502, bound up with a 'Theodolus,' by the same printer, and an 'Alanus,' by Quentell of Cologne, belonging to the same year, was purchased at the very low price of 11l. Agostini's 'Gemme Antiche,' first edition, 1657-69, with very fine impressions of the plates, was also acquired for the Museum. A remarkable book on Quebec, by the bishop of the diocese in 1688, was also obtained in the first day's sale.

Other lots acquired were the 'Confessionale' of Antoninus, 1479; an Ariosto of 1542; three early Aristotiles; a small Latin Bible, in five volumes, beautifully printed at Paris in 1533-40; Balbus, 'De Rebus Turcicis,' Rome, 1526; Boccaccio, 'Il Philocolo,' Milan, 1478, and the 'Nimphale' of the same, Venice, 1477; Bouchard's 'Croniques,' Paris, 1531, a very rare edition, and Bouchard's 'Feminei Sexus Apologia,' 1522, printed on vellum; a rare edition of the Decretals of Pope Boniface, Rome, 1472; Bocchius, 'Apologia in Plautum,' published at Bologna in 1508; 'Cæsar,' Rome, Lavagnia, 1478; Charles V., his answer to two briefs of Pope Clement VII., a contemporary tract of historic importance, printed at Bale by Cratander; the novels of Cervantes, 1641, and the 'Don Quixote' of 1647, both exceedingly rare. On the last day the Museum also acquired Champier, 'Les Grans Croniques,' &c., Paris, Jehan de la Garde, 1516, a work of very great historic interest and very rare.

We understand that the Museum also put very high commissions upon the Valdarfer Boccaccio and the second edition of the same, but they by no means touched the prices realized. The same was the case with the beautiful Augustinus on vellum and other vellum books. Fortunately, of other higher-priced books in the sale the Museum already had duplicates. This was the case with the 1462 Bible on vellum, purchased by Mr. Quaritch for 1,600l., of which the

Museum has a magnificent copy, also printed on vellum. There was a copy of the Vinegar Bible in the sale, printed on vellum; but the Museum has also a copy on vellum. Numerous early editions of the classics, as also of early voyages and travels, were in the sale, but of these there were already duplicates and fine copies in the national collection. There was a Colard Mansion likewise in the sale, and there was a Verard, both of which went for high prices; but they were not required for the Museum.

## Literary Gossip.

IN our number for December 31st we shall give a series of articles on the Continental Literature of the Year. Among them will be Belgium, by M. M. É. de Laveleye and Paul Fredericq; Bohemia, by M. J. V. Sládek, editor of *Lumir*; France, by M. Uzanne, editor of *Le Livre*; Germany, by Hofrath Zimmermann; Greece, by M. Lambros; Holland, by E. van Campen; Hungary, by Prof. Vámbéry; Italy, by Count De Gubernatis; Poland, by Dr. Belcikowski, of Cracow; Portugal, by Senhor Braga; Russia, by Prof. Storojenko, of the University of Moscow; and Sweden, by M. Ahnfelt.

A SELECTION from the private correspondence of Thomas Wentworth, Lord Raby, created third Earl of Strafford, distinguished as a soldier under William III. and Marlborough, and as a diplomatist under Queen Anne, is being prepared for publication, with a life, by Mr. J. J. Cartwright, the learned editor of the 'Memoirs of Sir John Reresby.' Lord Raby's chief correspondents in London when he was abroad were his brother Peter, his cousin Lord Bathurst (the friend of Pope and Swift), and Lord Berkeley of Stratton; their letters are full of social and political news. The letters of his mother Lady Wentworth, his wife, and his children help to make up a curious picture of the inner life of a great family in those days. The whole of this correspondence has of late years come into the possession of the Manuscript Department of the British Museum.

AN experiment of a somewhat novel kind, with special reference to the candidates for the Indian Civil Service, is to be begun at Cambridge next term. An organization has been formed of teachers in the various subjects of the competitive examinations for the purpose of preparing candidates. The Indian Civil Service is the primary object, but the association will also accept candidates not only for the Home Civil Service, the army, &c., but also for the various entrance scholarships and exhibitions at the university. The association undertakes to select lodgings where pupils will be under similar supervision to that exercised over undergraduate members of the university who are not in college rooms. It is open to pupils to become members of the university either by entering a college or becoming unattached students. To Indian Civil Service candidates this will be an advantage, as by entering the university a year (three terms) before the competitive examination they may, by remaining at the university if successful during their two years of probation, take their degrees before proceeding to India. In any case, whether members of the university or not, professors' lectures, the university laboratories, work-

shops, &c., are for the most part open to students whenever there is room. The Rev. G. B. Atkinson, Lecturer at Trinity Hall, and formerly Fellow and Assistant-Tutor of that college, is the manager of this scheme.

ONE who linked the present with past generations has just been taken away. Amongst the friends of Fielding was Sir Charles Hanbury-Williams, the songwriter. Mrs. Fielding, who died at Hereford Square, Brompton, on December 7th, in her eighty-fifth year, was the great-niece of the latter, and brought the two names again together on her marriage with the Rev. George Fielding, late Rector of North Ockendon, Essex, the novelist's grandson.

SIXTY thousand five hundred and thirteen copies of Mr. Bentley's new venture, his "People's Edition" of 'The Ingoldsby Legends,' were subscribed for on the day of publication—last Monday.

'JEWS AS THEY ARE' is the title of a book which is to appear early in January from the pen of Mr. Charles K. Salaman. It is intended to correct many generally mistaken ideas concerning Jews in their social, political, and religious relations, and will include chapters on the civil and social progress made by the Jews within the last half century, on the Jewish clergy, and on societies for converting Jews to Christianity, as well as one on the wrongful association of usury with the Jewish character. Though Mr. Salaman's name has hitherto been always associated with music, this is not the first time that he has written upon Jewish subjects.

ANOTHER relic of literary London is about to disappear, the order having been given for the demolition of the house in which the poet Rogers lived, at the corner of Newington Green.

THE death of Mr. Allan James Crosby, editor of the 'Calendar of Foreign State Papers of the Reign of Elizabeth,' occurred on the 5th inst. Mr. Crosby was educated at Worcester College, Oxford. After being called to the bar he received an appointment in the Public Record Office. In that department he at first assisted the Rev. Joseph Stevenson in the preparation of the above-named 'Calendar,' and on the resignation of Mr. Stevenson, some twelve years ago, Mr. Crosby was appointed sole editor. Continued ill health compelled him to give up his duties only three months ago. He was but forty-six years of age.

MADAME DE NOVIKOFF will contribute to an early number of the *Nineteenth Century* an article on 'The Temperance Movement in Russia.' Strange as it may seem, the article is designed to prove by undeniable statistics that such a movement exists. As to its success, however, some doubts may be allowed. Still the Russians are in all things extreme, ebriety and inebriety included. So a great future may await Russian temperance. It was made clearly apparent to the soldier mind during the Russo-Turkish war that tea was the real friend, not *vodka*; and the fact of which the soldiers became convinced may be rendered clear to the moujiks in general. The Holy Synod, it seems, has taken the matter up, and is distributing tracts widely which advocate sobriety even upon saints' days. Village societies also are being formed, which will

infect various penalties upon drunkards; and the *Selsky Vestnik*, or *Rural Messenger*, which is being widely circulated under official protection, is writing against drunkenness. Every one will wish the movement success, with the exception, possibly, of the Russian Chancellor of the Exchequer. A sober peasantry would deprive the Treasury of many millions.

Two students of Newnham College, Cambridge, Miss Moberly and Miss Finlay, attained the standard for a first class in the Moral Science Tripos of this year. As, however, they had not passed the Previous Examination, their names (under the new regulations) could not appear in the class list for women.

WE regret to hear of the death of Mr. John Maitland, the president for the present year of the Press Association, and one of the proprietors of the *Liverpool Mercury*.

MESSRS. TINSLEY BROTHERS will publish in January 'With a Show through Southern Africa,' by Mr. Charles H. Du Val. The book will be a record of the author's adventures during the Zulu war.

MR. J. R. GREEN'S new volume on early English history, and Prof. Huxley's volume entitled 'Science and Culture, and other Essays,' will be published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. immediately after Christmas.

NEXT month the *Burlington* will begin a new series and appear in a new cover. Dr. W. H. Russell will contribute a story, and the editor, Miss H. Mathers, will also furnish a short serial. The *St. James's Magazine* is to be enlarged in January.

DR. HAAS writes to inform us that "no amount of foul air that a man might be obliged to breathe during his daily occupation would, in the opinion of my physicians, bring on an illness of the nature of that from which I have been suffering." We are glad to hear this; for it would certainly be a disgrace to the Museum that an eminent scholar like Dr. Haas should have suffered so severely from the draughts of hot air in the Museum; at the same time there is no doubt that the place in which he used a few years ago to work was dangerous to health. Thanks to Mr. Bond, great improvements have of late been made in the accommodation given to the officers of the library; still a good deal remains to be done.

M. NAVILLE'S work on the texts of the old Egyptian ritual prior to the twenty-sixth dynasty, B.C. 600, will appear in about a year. The description will be in German as the work will be published by the German Government.

THE Folk-tale Committee at their last meeting considered specimens of abstracts of tales prepared by Mr. Nutt, Mr. Brabrook, and Mr. Hartland. These were modified in some respects and referred to the honorary secretary to prepare specimen forms for distribution to members. The draft report to the Council will probably be considered at the January meeting; and should it ultimately be approved by the Council the work of carrying out its recommendations will be referred back to the Committee.

EARLY in the new year the Manchester Literary Club will publish the first number of a quarterly periodical to be entitled the

*Manchester Quarterly*. It will be illustrated by artists who are members of the Club.

M. EUGÈNE FASNACHT has in hand an edition of Molière's 'Le Misanthrope' for Messrs. Macmillan & Co.'s series of "Foreign School Classics."

A RESOLUTION of the Government of India on the subject of the education of the children of the poorer European and Eurasian classes in that country, and more especially in Bengal, was published at the close of October. The inquiries of Archdeacon Baly have shown that in Bengal alone 5,000 children of these classes are growing up in absolute ignorance. The Government have emphatically decided against the assessment of a special educational rate on Europeans and against compulsory education. They consider, moreover, the establishment of a training college in India premature. Their proposals are to increase the accommodation at existing free schools, to reorganize the grant-in-aid system, and to make a further grant towards European education in Bengal. It is also intended to establish Government scholarships to enable youths to prosecute their studies to an advanced stage. A committee has been appointed to arrange the details of this scheme. In Madras and Bombay, where elementary education is already provided for the classes in question, technical schools are to be established.

HEINRICH DÜNTZNER, already well known by his biographies of Goethe and Schiller, has been engaged for some time upon a new life of Lessing. The book is to be illustrated with fac-similes and portraits.

It is proposed to collect at the Laurentian Library, in a room which will be built for the purpose, all the MSS. of Dante which are to be found in the libraries at Florence belonging to the Government. They number about 300.

THE National Library at Athens has lately been presented with a small Evangelium on parchment of the thirteenth century. The donor received it as a present from the prior of the monastery of Meteora in Thessaly. The monks seem to have given or sold several manuscripts to the members of the European commission for settling the frontiers of Greece, and the Greek Government thinks of sending a commission to examine the MSS. in all the Thessalian monasteries and remove them to Athens.

WE have received from M. Lambros an account of the inauguration of the monument to Lord Byron at Missolonghi, of which we must defer the publication till next week.

## SCIENCE

*An Elementary Treatise on Electricity.* By James Clerk Maxwell, M.A., LL.D., &c. Edited by William Garnett, M.A. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)

THIS posthumous work of the late Prof. Clerk Maxwell has been looked for with much interest by the numerous readers who know what remarkable freshness he was able to throw into the philosophical exposition of scientific principles. The editor informs us in the preface that the greater part was written about seven years ago, and that a portion was used as the text of some of the author's lectures at the Cavendish

Laboratory. The first eight chapters were left complete, and chapters ix. and x. nearly complete. The additions to the author's manuscript consist mainly of articles selected from his larger work, 'Electricity and Magnetism.' A few connecting paragraphs have been written by the editor, and are duly indicated. The relation between this and the larger treatise is best explained by the following statement in the author's preface:—

"In the larger treatise I sometimes made use of methods which I do not think the best in themselves, but without which the student cannot follow the investigations of the founders of the Mathematical Theory of Electricity. I have since become more convinced of the superiority of methods akin to those of Faraday, and have adopted them from the first."

The earlier chapters contain some excellent and rather novel experiments. Take, for example, the following, which is experiment xviii. :—

"Let it be required to determine the equipotential surfaces due to the electrification of the conductor C placed on an insulating stand. Connect the conductor with one electrode of the electroscope, the other being connected with the earth. Electrify the exploring sphere, and, carrying it by the insulating handle, bring its centre to a given point. Connect the electrodes for an instant, and then move the sphere in such a path that the indication of the electroscope remains zero. This path will lie on an equipotential surface. For, by Theorem V., the part of the potential of the conductor C due to the presence of the charged exploring sphere with its centre at a given point is equal to the potential at the given point due to a charge on the conductor C equal to that of the exploring sphere. By this method the potential of the conductor remains zero, or very nearly zero, during the whole time of the experiment, so that there is very little tendency to change of the charge of this body. The exploring sphere, on the other hand, is at a high potential, but as it is not connected by a wire with any other body, its insulation may be made very good."

We do not like the definition of "work" at the beginning of chapter iii. :—

"Work in general is the act of producing a change of configuration in a material system in opposition to a force which resists this change"; for it leaves out of account the fact that work may be done in overcoming inertia.

Again, there is a confusion between force and work in the application of the term "electromotive force." In many passages it is used to denote the electrical force at a point; but in section 5 of the first chapter, where the definition of it is given in the words "Whatever produces or tends to produce a transfer of electrification is called Electromotive Force," the illustrations which are employed all relate to "the electromotive force from one point to another," in the sense not of force but of work, that is to say, of a quantity whose dimensions are the product of distance and electrical force at a point. It is in this latter sense that the term was employed in the larger treatise and has been used by writers generally. It is, therefore, an innovation to speak, as the author does in section 44 and numerous other places, of the electromotive force at a given point of a field. Such a use of the term, if allowed to become general, would prove a fearful source of embarrassment to students. It would lead to such paradoxes as the following: that the electromotive force between two points vanishes as the

two points merge into one, and yet that the electromotive force at this one point is finite. Prof. Maxwell is so high an authority upon electrical philosophy and nomenclature that such an oversight in language on his part forms a dangerous precedent.

The editorial duty has been judiciously performed. The portions introduced at the end from the larger treatise are quite in keeping with the rest of the book, and were necessary to prevent it from being a torso. Respect for the author's own words has evidently prevented the slightest tampering with the text, so that there are occasional slight verbal inelegancies which any author would have corrected in his own proof-sheets.

The work will be studied with interest and profit, not only by those who are baffled by the formidable array of symbols in the larger treatise, but also by the numerous class of mathematicians who prefer direct geometrical and common-sense methods to the analytical mill.

*Every Man his own Mechanic.* (Ward, Lock & Co.)—The only thing objectionable about this book is its issue without a date either on title-page or preface. From its unusual fulness of detail we were at first led to regard it as of American origin, but further examination convinced us that it is of indigenous growth. Indeed, on p. 371 is a little bit of schoolboy experience—which will awaken a touch of sympathy in every English public school boy—as to the simple form of couch called the X bedstead, which identifies the writer as formerly “a boarder in the grammar school at Plymouth, close to St. Andrew’s, or the Old Church, but now devoted to other purposes.” This is, we think, all that the author has thought fit to say as to his opportunities for acquiring the information of which his book is full. It has been, however, the less necessary for him to do more, inasmuch as the volume itself bears witness to his capacity “to furnish the amateur artisan with hints and suggestions regarding all that he may undertake in constructive and decorative work at home, and to show them clearly and in a thoroughly practical manner how each kind of manual labour is to be carried out, and with what appliances, tools, and materials it must be done.” It is rather a bold thing to add, but it is true, that the information presented in its pages is practical and reliable. “It has been gathered chiefly from observation and actual experience. .... Much that is said in it cannot be found in any recognized text-book, because the authors of such works take for granted that those for whom they write know all about the elements of their craft, and that it is therefore needless to say anything about them.” It is not only the amateur workman, however, who will find a treasure in this book. It does not seem to have occurred to the author where the chief utility of the book will lie. By the emigrant it would be found invaluable. The counsel, direction, and instructions are so plainly given that it would require a more than ordinary degree of stupidity to misunderstand them. The book in this respect resembles more closely some of the admirable professional papers of the late General Sir Charles Pasley, R.E., than any other work to which it can be compared. Those who know by experience what Sir Charles did for the profession of the engineer will understand the weight of such a comparison. The book consists of three parts. The first relates to household carpentry and joinery, the second to ornamental and constructional carpentry and joinery, the third to household building art and practice. Under the first head the various woods used in carpentry are mentioned, and

cuts of seventeen kinds of trees add clearness to the page. A general notion of timber is then given, including advice as to felling and seasoning, and prices and trade-marks of different descriptions of wood. Then tools are enumerated and described, and the student is taught how to sharpen, hold, and handle them. The little cuts that illustrate these directions, simple and humble as they are as works of art, yet give just what the learner requires. In the second part the writer passes from the carpenter's bench to the turning lathe, veneering and carved work, fret sawing and carving in wood. The mode in which the appropriate tools are described, and sometimes sketched, each in its proper place, the best makers indicated, and the recipes for cement, varnish, &c., introduced, each where it is wanted, is deserving of high recommendation. Carving, as is natural, is regarded as a craft rather than as an art, and the remark that “an hour spent in watching a carver at work will do more towards helping a would-be carver to a proper notion how to handle his tools than any number of pages of careful and elaborate description” is one of which the amateur should never lose sight. The examples of simple and easy carpentry, fixtures within doors, tables, stools, chairs, and couches, and general principles of construction, making, and mending, are among the parts of the book which would be most highly valued by the emigrant. The third part deals with earth-work, bricklaying, masonry, roofing, plastering, smith's work, plumbing, gas-fitting, painting, glazing, and paper-hanging. And here we have another utility of the book which its author has not mentioned. Persons in London, and probably in many other places, are increasingly afflicted by the ignorance and stupidity of the workmen who are sent to perform some of those thousand-and-one repairs constantly needed in a house. The experienced, alert, civil workman of former times is becoming more and more rare. The presence of incompetent men in constructive trades—and they are almost always the most pig-headed—is becoming more and more a daily scourge to the houseowner. ‘Every Man his own Mechanic’ will aid any person who has some idea of work, if not to do his own repairs, at least to see where the journeyman sent to his house is making two holes for every one that he stops up—or, in fact, whether he knows anything whatever of the work which he professes to execute.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

LETTERS from Norway have been received giving the latest news from Mr. Leigh Smith, and the views of his present position held by the walrus-hunters who have spent the summer in the Barents Sea. The Eira was last seen by Capt. Isaacsen, on the 8th of July, off the middle strait of Novaya Zemlya, going north; and as the ice cleared some days after that, it is believed that our adventurous yachtsman succeeded in reaching Eira harbour in Franz Josef Land. The pack afterwards closed again and prevented him from getting out, and his position, in case the ice is not favourable early next summer, is believed to be one of great peril. The deputation from the Geographical Society which will wait upon the first Lord of the Admiralty next Tuesday, to urge the necessity of a search and relief expedition being sent out next season, will be headed by Lord Aberdare, and include, amongst others, the following: Sir H. Rawlinson, Sir George Nares, Admiral Sir E. Ommanney, Sir Allen Young, Sir Rutherford Alcock, Sir Barrow Ellis, Mr. C. R. Markham, and Mr. T. V. Smith.

Mr. Pearson, whose recent return from the Victoria Nyanza we noticed, has brought home with him a mass of geographical information. He has observed numerous latitudes and longitudes, made a survey of the environs of Rubuga and of a portion of the western shore of the lake, and kept a careful meteorological journal. He

speaks highly of the general accuracy of Mr. Stanley's work, and found that nearly all his latitudes were correct.

The most prominent paper in the *Proceedings* of the Royal Geographical Society for December is an article, by Mr. F. A. Simons, on the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta and its watershed in the Magdalena state of the Colombian republic. As pointed out by Mr. C. R. Markham, this region has historical associations owing to its having been conceded by Charles V. to the famous Fuggers of Augsburg, who sent out an adventurer who eventually perished at the head of his troops after having crossed the snow-clad Sierra. The highest peak of this range was successfully scaled to within 500 feet of its summit by Mr. Simons, whose observations assigned a total height of about 17,500 feet thereto. The ascent proved one of considerable difficulty, and the last four hours of the journey were performed by Mr. Simons alone, as his Indian companions were afraid to follow. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coffee and sugar planting, rum distilling, and the breeding of cattle. The natives are remarkable for hospitality, and travelling is quite safe, firearms being required only by those who mix themselves up with politics! A remarkable point connected with the Sierra Nevada is that there is fair ground for supposing that it originally formed the backbone of a quasi-delta washed by two arms of the Magdalena river. This former complete isolation of the Sierra from the Cordilleras of the Andes receives confirmation from the peculiarity of the Fauna, which includes humming and some other birds of a kind quite peculiar to the Sierra. Turning to the other articles of the *Proceedings*, we may notice two interesting notes on that newly explored Arctic island Wrangel Land, and two very complete and instructive accounts of the recent geographical exhibition and congress at Venice, by Lord Aberdare and Capt. A. W. Baird, R.E. To these we hope to revert on a future occasion, for the lessons to be learned from this important *réunion* are such as science cannot afford to neglect.

M. Alphonse Milne Edwards on Monday, the 28th ult., laid before the Academy of Sciences a report on his investigations of the Mediterranean. The explorations were continued for seventy days. The greatest depth reached by sounding and dredging was 2,600 metres. The bottom of the Mediterranean was found not devoid of living beings, species of low organization being found between depths of 1,068 and 2,600 metres. At an average depth of 250 metres the temperature was constant at 13° Cent. This explains the small development of life in the depths of that sea, the muddy bottom and the absence of rocks being also unfavourable to germination. M. Blanchard said that M. Milne Edwards's report confirmed his views that the Mediterranean was a sea of recent formation.

The newly formed Geographical Society of Mozambique is endeavouring to get a survey made of the gulfs and rivers of the province, and it also proposes to organize an expedition to Lake Nyassa, which is to start from Sangul.

#### ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

No known periodical comet will return to perihelion in 1882.

Denning's comet (*f*, 1881) passed its perihelion on the 13th of September, and has been for some time out of the reach of any but very powerful telescopes. Prof. Winnecke succeeded in obtaining an observation of it (already very faint) at Strasbourg about 5 o'clock on the morning of the 19th of November, when its place was R.A. 10<sup>h</sup> 40<sup>m</sup> 33<sup>s</sup>, N.P.D. 75° 10'. Combining the result of this latest observation with those obtained from earlier ones, Dr. Hartwig has calculated a fresh set of elliptic elements of the comet, in which the period of revolution is 8.83 years, the perihelion distance 0.726, and the semi-axis major 4.273 in terms of the earth's

mean distance from the sun. Prof. Winnecke is of opinion that a small comet discovered by the late M. Hermann Goldschmidt at Paris on the 16th of May, 1855, and erroneously (as Winnecke pointed out at the time) supposed by him to be the seven-year period comet of Di Vico (which has, in fact, never been seen since its discovery in 1844), was an earlier appearance of this comet found by Mr. Denning on the 5th of October. At the last return of this comet in 1873 it would have passed its perihelion on the 12th of January, and made so near an approach to the planet Venus—within 0.02 in terms of the earth's mean distance from the sun—as considerably to alter its orbit. The return next preceding that of 1855 would be in the autumn of 1846, and Mr. Hind observed a comet at Regent's Park that year on the 18th of October, which Prof. Winnecke thinks may also have been the one in question. If the fourth comet of 1819 (Blanpain's) was also the same, two unobserved returns, in 1828 and 1837 respectively, must have taken place in the interim.

The comet (g, 1881) discovered by Mr. Wendell at Harvard College, Cambridge, U.S., on November 17th, was observed by Prof. Winnecke at Strasbourg on the 25th and 26th of that month; he described it then as resembling a pale nebulous mass about 4' in diameter, condensed at the centre. On the former night he watched it passing over a star of the tenth magnitude, the effect being that scarcely anything of the comet was perceptible, the star merely appearing to be surrounded by a slight nebulous haze, similar to what is often seen around such a star in a bad state of the atmosphere. M. Bigourdan observed it at Paris on the 27th of November, and describes it as "a feeble nebulosity, destitute of tail, a little more brilliant towards the centre, and not exceeding in brightness a star of the twelfth magnitude." The places derived from the European observations differ considerably from those in the first ephemeris calculated by Mr. S. C. Chandler from three very early American observations. Herr J. Palisa, of the Imperial Observatory, Vienna (formerly Director of the Marine Observatory at Pola), has computed a more accurate orbit, by combining the earlier and later observations; from this it appears that the comet passed its perihelion on the 9th inst., at the distance from the sun of 1.917 in terms of the earth's mean distance, and is also receding from the earth and becoming fainter, its present distance from us being 1.463 on the same scale, or about 135,000,000 miles.

We have received the *Memoirs* of the Italian Spectroscopical Society for September. It contains two interesting papers by M. Fievez, Assistant-Astronomer of the Royal Observatory in Brussels, respectively on the enlargement of the spectral rays of hydrogen and on the spectrum of Tebbutt's comet (b, 1881). With regard to the latter, the conclusions that he comes to are (1) that a great part of the comet's light is inherent; (2) that another part is reflected solar light; (3) that the strong polarization of the nucleus indicates a marked state of condensation of the matter composing it; (4) that the spectrum of this comet is very little different from those of other comets which have been examined; and (5) that the marked modifications in the continuous spectrum of the nucleus, and above all in the appearance of the spectral bands, seem to indicate a progressive decrease in the temperature of the comet. An appendix to the *Memoirs* contains a paper by M. Groneman, of Groningen, entitled 'Researches on the Nature of the Zodiacal Light,' in which, founding his arguments chiefly on the observations of Mr. Jones, chaplain of the United States Navy, made during a voyage in the years 1853-55, and using also some of his own, he contends that the origin of the zodiacal light is, like that of the polar aurora, in the neighbourhood of the earth. We have also received more recently the number of the

*Memoirs* for October. The principal contents are Prof. Riccio's observations of solar spots, faculae, and protuberances at Palermo during the months of April, May, and June this year. But there are also articles containing spectroscopic observations of comets b and c, 1881, by Prof. Vogel, of Potsdam, and of the former of those two comets by Prof. Young, of Princeton, New Jersey, and a description of a new direct-vision spectroscope by Prof. Zenger, of Prague.

It appears that the date of the death of Prof. Gautier at Geneva was November 30th. He was born in the same town on July 18th, 1793, and published at Paris an 'Essai Historique sur le Problème des Trois Corps' in 1817. He became Professor of Astronomy at Geneva in 1819, and it was owing to his exertions that a much better observatory was erected there in the year 1830 than the very small one which existed at the time of his appointment. Defective vision prevented his personally superintending the operations of the new establishment, but the good work which has emanated from it under the direction of Prof. Plantamour is well known to all astronomers. The late Prof. Gautier was elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society of London in 1822. He was the author of a large number of papers on scientific subjects, and was one of the first to notice the connexion between the solar spots and terrestrial magnetism.

The *Connaissance des Temps* for 1883 has just been published. The principal change is that whereas the places of Uranus and Neptune have hitherto been calculated by the tables of Prof. Newcomb, those of Le Verrier are now used for them as well as for all the other large planets. It may be remarked that all Le Verrier's planetary tables are also adopted by our own *Nautical Almanac*, which commenced to use those for the two most distant planets in the volume for 1882, published in 1878.

#### SOCIETIES.

**GEOGRAPHICAL.**—Dec. 12.—Major-General Sir Henry C. Rawlinson, V.P., in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Fellows: Rev. J. Greenfield, Messrs. A. W. Anderson, A. C. Cork, H. A. Erlebach, H. C. Langton, T. V. Smith, A. J. Tell, G. Vale, and E. Wahab. The papers read were: 'On the Searches for the United States Jeannette Expedition,' by Mr. C. R. Markham, with a Note by Admiral Sir R. Collinson, and 'On the Dutch Arctic Voyages, with Notes on the Position of Mr. L. Smith,' by Commodore Jansen.

**ASTRONOMICAL.**—Dec. 9.—Mr. Dunkin in the chair.—Mr. J. M'Canee was elected a Fellow.—Mr. Common read a paper on a method of silvering large mirrors. His own mirror, which is thirty-seven inches in diameter and four and a half inches thick, weighs over 400 lb. There is consequently considerable difficulty in turning it face downwards and placing it in the silvering solution so as to avoid bubbles. His method is to attach a large iron sucker to the back of the mirror; the air is then partially exhausted, and the sucker, which consists of a shallow iron box standing on an indiarubber ring, can be moved by means of pulleys, and carries the mirror without danger of strain or breakage. He had tried several silvering solutions, but now uses grape sugar and nitrate of silver.—Mr. Stone read a paper 'On a New Form of Transit Instrument,' in which he proposes to replace the crown lens of the object glass by a totally reflecting prism. The hinder face is ground to a concave spherical surface, and immediately behind the prism a flint convex lens is placed, which forms, together with the prism, an achromatic combination, so that the rays will be brought to a focus in a direction at right angles to their original course. The observer will consequently be able to stand in one position, looking east or west, and by turning the prismatic object glass round on its axis will be able to observe the transit of any object on the meridian.—Mr. Penrose read and explained a paper on a graphic method of finding the elements of the orbit of a comet.—The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Murray, the editor of the Philological Society's Dictionary, asking for information with respect to the first use of the words "perihelion" and "aphelion."—Mr. Christie stated that Mr. Wesley, after making a search in the works of Copernicus and Kepler, had come to the conclusion that the words were introduced by Kepler, and that older astronomers made use of the words

"apogee" and "perigee."—The following papers were also announced and partly read: 'On Observations of Venus in the Spring of 1881,' and 'On Radiant Points of Shooting Stars observed at Bristol in the Years 1878 and 1879,' by Mr. W. F. Denning.—'On the Motion of the Companion of Sirius,' by Mr. W. E. Plummer.—'Note on the Variable Star D. M. + 1° No. 3408,' by Prof. C. Pritchard.—'On the Conjunction of the Satellites of Uranus with each other which may be observable from February to June, 1882,' by Mr. A. Marth.—'Note on Messrs. Campbell and Neison's paper on the Parallactic Inequality in the Supplementary Number of the Monthly Notice,' by Mr. E. J. Stone.—'Observations of Mimas, 1881,' by Mr. A. A. Common, and 'Note on the Discovery of Comet c, 1881 (Schaberle),' by Mr. W. F. Denning.

**SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.**—Dec. 8.—Mr. A. W. Franks, V.P., in the chair.—The Rev. F. E. Warren, B.D., read a paper on some Saxon manuscripts (which had escaped the notice of Hickeys and Thorpe) on the eighth leaf of Leofric's Missal (Bodleian MS. No. 579). It was only a few days before reading this communication that Mr. Warren discovered they were printed by Mr. Davidson in an appendix to a learned paper on some Anglo-Saxon boundaries in the *Transactions* of the Devonshire Association, vol. viii. p. 417. There were, however, some discrepancies in the reading of the MS., which he was anxious to submit to the judgment of the meeting. Mr. Warren also called attention to the Calendar of the same Missal.—Dr. Baron read some notes on an old dowry chest of white cedar, 6 feet long, 3 feet high, and 2 feet 6 inches from front to back: the inscription on it appeared to be in Portuguese, and to be an adaptation of Psalm cxviii. 4-7, also on a small MS. on stenography, by J. Will; which Dr. Baron conjectured might stand for J. Willis, who appeared at the close of the sixteenth century to have invented a regular alphabet on stenography. Dr. Baron also laid before the Society a paper on some architectural features of interest in the church of Manningford Bruce, Wilts. The object of the paper appeared to be to show that in certain apsidal churches in this country and abroad the architecture was suggested by ideas and associations borrowed from the ritual of the Greek Church.

**BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—Dec. 7.—Mr. T. Morgan in the chair.—Major P. di Cesnola exhibited a large collection of ancient Greek glass vessels from Cyprus, showing the progress of glass manufacture. The articles were mostly of small size and beautifully worked with the well-known radiating and wavy patterns, many of which, as was remarked during the discussion which followed, were to be found also in the Venetian glass of mediæval times.—Mr. W. Myers exhibited a collection of antiquities of continental origin. Among these were some worked flints acquired at Copenhagen, and many fine and beautiful specimens of Roman fibulae and Egyptian bronzes.—Mr. C. H. Compton described some Roman Samian ware from Germany, in every respect similar to what is found in London, affording additional evidence of the fabrication of the articles in the Rhenish provinces.—Mr. R. Allen exhibited a series of drawings of Transitional Norman ironwork from churches in Shropshire.—In the absence of the Rev. Dr. Hoopell, his paper on a supposed Saxon church in North Gosforth Park was deferred. The ruins are not far from Low Gosforth House.—A report was then made by Mr. L. Brock of the uncovering of the remains of Carrow Nunnery, Norwich, by Mr. J. J. Colman, M.P. The site was all but covered at the time of the visit of the Association in 1879, but the excavations undertaken have led to the recovery of the entire ground plan of the building. It is found to agree with the general arrangements of a Benedictine monastery. The church is cruciform, and has had a central tower. The bases of several of the late eleventh century columns remain, and also those of two of the side altars. The chapter house has been a small apartment, while the day room has been of considerable extent. A quantity of elaborately moulded stones and carved capitals have been recovered. The lecturer's remarks were illustrated by a large plan of the remains, prepared by Mr. A. G. King, who has superintended the works, and who gave further particulars. A series of photographs, sent by Mr. Colman, were also exhibited.—The meeting was brought to a close by a review of the proceedings of the Congress at Great Malvern, by the Chairman.

**SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—Dec. 12.—Mr. T. Bolas gave the fourth and concluding lecture of his course of Cantor Lectures 'On some of the Industrial Uses of the Calcium Compounds.'

Dec. 14.—Sir F. Bramwell in the chair.—Mr. W. H. Preece read a paper 'On Electric Lighting at the Paris Electrical Exhibition.' A large number of incandescent lamps on the Edison system were shown

in action, working at Kankank

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in action, the current being obtained from a machine working at the end of the Adelphi arches near the Embankment.

**MATHEMATICAL.**—Dec. 8.—Mr. S. Roberts, President, in the chair.—Miss G. H. Stuart was elected a Member, and Miss C. A. Scott was admitted into the Society.—The following papers were read: 'On the Polar Planes of Four Quadrics,' by Mr. W. Spottiswoode; 'On some Forms of Cubic Determinants,' by Mr. R. F. Scott; 'On the Flow of a Viscous Fluid through a Pipe or Channel,' by Prof. Greenhill; and 'The Co-Variant which is the complete Locus of the Vertex of the Involution Pencil of Tangents to a Cubic,' by Mr. J. J. Walker.

**NEW SHAKESPEARE.**—Dec. 9.—Mr. Furnivall, Director, in the chair.—Miss E. H. Hickey read a paper 'On "Romeo and Juliet,"' and called attention to the difference between this, Shakespeare's first tragedy, the only one in which love plays the part of parts, and his other tragedies later by many years. The difference in Romeo's language after he has come under the influence of his second and true love was also noticeable; no more antitheses about "heavy lightness," &c. Romeo's character was one of truest courtesy and grace; the Friar replies to his salutation, "What early tongue so sweet saluteth me!" and while describing his passion to Benvolio he can break off to salute the puzzled serving-man and help him out of his trouble.—Dr. B. Nicholson read some notes on the following passages in 'Hamlet': 1, "Mortal coil," which he defended against Mason's and Prof. Elze's changes, and gave instances in favour of the nautical sense of the word; 2, "Sables," obscure only because commentators did not consider how Shakespeare dressed his characters: Hamlet in "inky" black, Claudius and Gertrude in, as it were, half mourning; 3, "Comma," which he declined to change; and 4, "All the world's a stage," which, with the "seven ages," was not original. He quoted instances from the Fathers, &c., the Globe motto was "Totus mundus agit histrionem," and there were other examples, as in Withals's dictionary.—Dr. Bayne strongly supported Warburton's reading, "Nay, then, the devil may wear black 'fore I'll have a suit of sables." Mr. Furnivall discussed the possibility of "comma" being used in the sense of a hyphen.

**HISTORICAL.**—Dec. 9.—*Annual General Meeting.*—Mr. C. Walford in the chair.—The Report of the Council and the Treasurer's accounts were received and adopted; and Lord Selborne and the Earl of Rosebery were re-elected *Vice-Presidents*; and Dr. Zerfifi, Earl Ferrers, Lord Gower, and the Rev. J. M. Crombie were re-elected *Members of the Council*.

**PHYSICAL.**—Dec. 10.—Prof. W. G. Adams in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Members: Lieut. C. E. Gladstone, Lieut. C. G. Dicken, Mr. W. G. Woolcombe, Rev. Prof. S. Sircomb, and Mr. A. Clayden.—The meeting adjourned to see the Smoke Abatement Exhibition under the lead of Prof. C. Roberts.

**ARISTOTELIAN.**—Dec. 5.—Mr. S. H. Hodgson, President, in the chair.—A discussion took place upon "Cause" and its dependent ideas—"law, condition, power, agency, final cause, cause of knowing," and "relation" generally.

**EDUCATION.**—Dec. 12.—Dr. Gladstone in the chair.—Mrs. Bryant read a paper 'On Herbert Spencer's Educational Writings.' Confining herself to the question of the relative importance of subjects and the formation of the curriculum, she showed that Mr. Spencer's method of reasoning on education is purely deductive, and that his conclusions, though logically reduced, have never been put into practice by teachers. Criticizing his argument in detail, she showed that Mr. Spencer assumes without sufficient proof, firstly, that the value of a study as discipline is in proportion to its value for knowledge-giving; secondly, that the highest achievements of art require a knowledge of the principles of science, physical and mental, on the part of the artist.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon. Asiatic, 4.—'Origin of the Phœnician Language,' Mr. G. Bertin; 'Sculptured Tope at Dura, near Ladak,' Mr. W. Simpson.
- Tues. London Institution, 5.—'Colour as applied to Architecture,' Mr. G. Aitchison.
- Wed. Aristotelian, 7.—'Plato's Cosmology,' Rev. W. C. Barlow.
- Thurs. Education, 7½.—'Election of Officers.'
- Fri. Institute of Surveyors, 8.—'Discussion on Mr. Squary's Paper 'On Land Legislation and Tenants' Improvements'; and on Mr. Tuckett's Paper, 'The Cause of the Failure of the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1875, and the Present Agitation for Protection for Tenants' Capital.'
- Sat. Institute of British Architects, 8.
- Sund. Statistical, 7½.—'Industrial Resources of Ireland,' Mr. G. T. Bevan.
- Civil Engineers, 8.—Annual Meeting.
- Institute of Bankers, 6.
- Meteorological, 7.—'Rainfall of Cherrapunji, Assam,' Prof. J. Elliot; 'Meteorology of Cannes, France,' Dr. W. Marec; 'Principle of New Zealand Weather Forecasts,' Commander R. A. Edwin; 'Report on the Phenological Observations for 1881,' Rev. T. A. Preston.

Thurs. Royal, 4½.  
—London Institution, 7.—'Mark Twain,' Rev. H. R. Haweis.  
Fri. Quætt Microscopical, 8.

#### Science Gossip.

In anticipation of the visit of the British Association to Oxford in 1883, a committee has been formed to organize a local committee upon a wide basis, and to take action with a view of fixing as soon as possible the date of the meeting.

A BATTERY of new construction for the storage of electricity has been invented by Mr. Henry Sutton, of Ballarat, Australia. It is said to be more efficient than any yet produced for the same purpose, as will be seen on publication of the description, which, as we understand, will be shortly.

DR. ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, F.R.S., Murchison Professor of Geology, Edinburgh, and Director of the Geological Survey of Scotland, has accepted the appointment of Director-General of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom and Director of the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street.

MR. CHARLES MOORE, of Bath, died on the 7th of December, at the age of sixty-seven years. Mr. Moore has been for many years a most zealous geological observer, working over an especially interesting field—that surrounding Bristol. His examination of the condition of mineral lodes with especial reference to microscopic organisms which he found to exist in some of them was his most important work. Mr. Moore devoted much attention to the Bath Museum. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1854.

M. DEHERAIN, Professor of the Museum of Natural History in Paris, has availed himself of the advantages for experiment offered by the late electric exhibition at Paris to make a series of investigations on the action of the electric light on horticulture and agriculture. The main result arrived at by M. Deherain is that the electric light is capable of giving a certain impetus to vegetation when it supplements the ordinary action of solar light and heat, but is incapable of supplying this of itself, and the plants, being forced to draw on their own vitality, speedily become exhausted. M. Deherain concludes that the electric light produced by the voltaic arc has only a feeble and uncertain action on vegetation.

M. GOPPELSRÖDER, of Mulhouse, has recently been showing the feasibility of making certain colouring matters by electrolysis, which he first announced in 1875 in a paper to the Industrial Society of Mulhouse. It is not possible for us to describe all M. Goppelsröder's experiments, the results of which are so interesting. Many of the most beautiful of the aniline colours are obtained by him by the electrolysis of the chlorhydrates of methaniline and other aniline products. Artificial alizarine is prepared at the positive pole from a mixture of anthraquinone and caustic potash. All the results are highly promising.

The Government Astronomer has sent us the 'Monthly Record for January, 1881, of Results of Observations in Meteorology, Terrestrial Magnetism, &c.,' taken at the Melbourne Observatory. The mean pressure for the month was 29.833 inches, being 0.004 inch lower than the average of the preceding twenty-three years, the mean temperature of the month being 66.3°, or 0.1° lower than the last twenty-three years.

MESSERS. WEIT & MERZ, of Zürich, have been turning naphthalene, a beautiful white crystalline substance, but hitherto regarded as a waste product, to good account. The naphthalene colours produced by this firm are characterized by fine yellow and red tints, their latest discovery being a dye of a singular golden hue, to which the name of "sun-gold" has been given.

#### FINE ARTS

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.—WINTER EXHIBITION NOW OPEN, from Ten to Five daily, at the Suffolk Street Galleries, Pall Mall East.—Admission, 1s. THOS. ROBERTS, Secretary.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS.—THE TWENTIETH WINTER EXHIBITION is NOW OPEN.—3, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five. ALFRED D. FAIRIE, Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS.—THE SIXTEENTH WINTER EXHIBITION is NOW OPEN. From Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary. Gallery, 53, Pall Mall.

THE EUROPEAN (late "NEW") GALLERIES, 10, New Bond Street, sixteen doors from Oxford Street. EXHIBITION OF FINE ART AND DECORATIVE ART.—Admission, including Catalogue, 1s. T. J. GULLICK, Director.

DORÉ'S GREAT WORKS. 'CHRIST LEAVING THE PRETORIUM,' 'CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM,' and 'MOSES before PHARAOH,' each 35 by 22 feet, with 'Ecce Homo,' 'The Ascension,' 'Dream of Peter's Wife,' 'Soldiers of the Cross,' 'A Day Dream,' &c., at the DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond Street. Daily, Ten to Six.—1s.

*The Churches of the Nene Valley, Northamptonshire.* By E. Sharpe, J. Johnson, and A. H. Kersey. Illustrated. (Batsford.)

THOSE who respect the loyal execution of a serious purpose, and especially those who care for faithful and elaborate delineations and descriptions of beautiful architecture, will be grateful to the authors of this volume. It excites all the greater interest and the warmer thanks because it contains the last fruits of the labours of the writer whose name stands first on the title-page. A student of students, and among the most practical of men, the late Edmund Sharpe was a model writer on architecture; on all that he did he put the seal of his own searching spirit.

What Mr. Sharpe wrote about, Messrs. Johnson and Kersey have measured and delineated in a manner worthy of their guide, who was likewise in no small degree their instructor in all but the purely technical parts of their joint task. Even among architects who are fine draughtsmen, few have been more successful than those to whom we owe this book. Its history is as follows. Mr. Sharpe led the Architectural Association in a series of annual excursions in Northamptonshire and the Lower Fen regions, where they found materials for architectural studies proper, apart from the age or historical associations of the buildings examined. The first published outcome of these journeys was the so-called 'Lincoln Excursion'; but a considerable part of the impression was, as we mentioned at the time, burned with the shop of the binder. This journey began at Ely, and included Lincoln Cathedral and several churches on the roads to Sleaford and Grantham, Spalding and Caythorpe. 'The Churches of the Nene Valley' is the outcome of the third (1872) excursion, and it differs in several respects from the 'Lincoln Excursion.' It includes materials drawn from five-and-forty churches in the valley of the Welland, at Stamford, Aldwinkle St. Peter's, Barnack, Finedon, Fotheringhay, Higham Ferrers, Northborough, Polebrook, Raunds, Northampton, and Titchmarsh, and other places not so well known.

Mr. Sharpe, whose manuscript is printed with additional notes by the architects who have completed the volume, always disdained a complicated nomenclature, and preferred his own system to that of Rickman. Mr. Sharpe's divisions were (1) Norman; (2) Transitional (1145-1190), including such as he had illustrated in his 'Ornamentation of the Transitional Period

of Architecture'; and (3) Lancet, as in All Saints' and St. Paul's, both at Stamford. These churches are models of elegance, and they are rich in carved caps so lovely as to be worthy of the Greeks, and show Early English design in its perfection. Consummate architecture and faultless execution occur so often in works of this period in the Nene Valley that the words of our author are not too emphatic:—

"Here, indeed, we perceive the same artistic fitness of design, the same faultless execution and delicacy of treatment, that is to be seen in the largest cathedral and in the noblest conventual church; amply proving, if farther proof were needed, that these smaller designs were not the production of local builders, but proceeded from the same source, the same great fountain head from which the designs of the larger buildings were supplied. Whether this fountain head of design consisted of some great secular guild or brotherhood, or of some special organization or department of work in the Church itself; whether this apparently consentaneous uniformity in certain great principles of design was the result of prescription and of some absolute form of rule; or whether it was fashion alone which controlled and limited the architect, it is not our business here to inquire; but we are bound to record the fact that there is not a church in this valley which does not bear witness to its existence."

No organization which was necessarily ecclesiastical or fraternal existed at the time in question. The Roman Catholic Church would not have failed to preserve the proofs of the existence of a sacerdotal school of such transcendent merit if it could justify a claim to architectural laurels like these. The pretensions of the so-called freemasons are not worthy of notice. The personality or idiosyncrasy of a single architect is too plainly marked on many works to allow of a doubt that one man designed such a group of buildings, another such another group—the groups being, of course, not necessarily, although they were probably, confined to one locality. The "consentaneous uniformity in certain great principles of design" was, we believe, the result of prescription, which pertook of the nature of modern fashions, and changed slowly as the times changed and men's minds were moved in obedience to their necessities. In no other way can we account for what Mr. Sharpe happily called the "consentaneous uniformity" of architectural groups which appears east, west, north, and south, in Norfolk, Northampton, the valleys of Derbyshire, the Staffordshire champaign, in Devon, Somerset, and Lincoln.

Mr. Sharpe continues:—

"Within certain limits, however, it is evident that the imagination of the architect was allowed free play; the general similarity, in fact, which seems to characterize these twenty-three churches, begins in a great measure to disappear as we examine them in detail; in no two of them, for example, are the relative proportions on the ground-story of pier, arch, and intercolumniation the same; or the profile of the mouldings in capital and base alike. Nor can the student rise from a profitable examination and comparison of this interesting series of works without the conviction that each of these twenty-three designs, occurring within a few miles of each other, has an individuality of character that distinguishes it from its neighbours; and that the last reproach that can be addressed to the architect who designed any one of them is that of copyism. That he must, nevertheless, have been fully acquainted with the work of his own and of earlier periods there cannot be a doubt; and it

is by following a similar course of careful and patient study that the architect of the present day can alone hope to keep his modern design free from the charge of ignorance and plagiarism."

Mr. Sharpe's fourth group is called the Curvilinear (1315–1360), and is illustrated in Northborough Church and, still better, in the well-known Finedon Church. In this work, as in the more ancient one at Ringstead, light freestone and dark ironstone were employed alternately in a manner approaching the North Italian mode, and supply the least happy feature of a building which deserves much attention, although, artistically speaking, it is inferior to the churches at Irthlingborough and Ringstead. Finedon is remarkable for its charmingly designed straining arch, which has been placed athwart the nave from one second pier to the other, and is of Rectilinear (Perpendicular) character. Here the outline of the chancel arch is fine. The fifth or Rectilinear group (1360–1500) is, of course, very richly illustrated in these pages; many noble works attest its dignity and, it must be admitted, the development of deteriorating elements. At Rushden occurs a straining arch across the nave which is very like that at Finedon, and there are some unusually good mouldings and dripstone heads. So much may be said about part i. of this work, which consists of measured elevations of great variety, all admirably grouped for comparison and reference. They are drawn to the useful scale of four feet to the inch, while details are represented at double that scale. Here and throughout the book the drawings have been made and tested with honourable loyalty, and are as clear as they are faithful.

Sequential examples arranged in parallels of longitudinal sections of churches were never so successfully employed before. They enable us to grasp not only the peculiarities of each building, but the progress of changes in its architecture. Mr. Sharpe, describing Barnack Church, south ground-story, explains their use:—

"We can advantageously contrast its work with that of the north ground-story of earlier date, and note the progress that has been made in the short interval only that must have elapsed between the completion of the one and the commencement of the other. On contrasting plate 18 with plate 9, we find that the main dimensions of the two elevations are nearly the same; and that the pier-arches are in both cases similar. We notice that the clustered or compound pier has, in the latter [sic] example [south ground-story at Barnack], replaced the circular column of the earlier design; and that the shafts of this pier are all banded; also that the zig-zag has entirely disappeared in the pier-arches."

The fact is that on looking at the north nave arcade of Barnack Church a Roman would not find himself astray, so like to debased Corinthian are its columns, abaci, and caps. On the other hand, so rapid had been the change of which Mr. Sharpe speaks that an "Early English" architect would have been at home among the reeded arch mouldings, and the caps and bands of the clustered columns on the south side of the same nave, which is not more than ten years later than the opposite arcade. An error in the above-quoted passage sets a trap for hasty readers

which is not unique in this book. The word "latter" should be *later*.

Mr. Sharpe illustrated the parallel in question in the following lucid fashion:—

"On comparing plate 19 with plate 10, we see the advance made in the increasing richness and rounded forms of the mouldings of the pier-arch and in the elegance of the plan of the clustered pier; but, above all, in the increased relief and nascent freedom of the conventional foliage, which has already begun to grow, as it were, out of the neck of the capital, and the stems of which, generally inclined one way so as to follow one another round the capital, are prolonged into the deeply-relieved central rib."

The second part of this book is more attractive, if not more instructive, than the first. It comprises admirably drawn illustrations of doorways, piscinæ, sedilia, &c., which not only offer materials for comment, but are instances of graceful art applied to the decorative details of the churches, the larger elements of which have been previously dealt with. The large scale employed for these details and the admirable draughtsmanship of the plates leave nothing to be desired; sections and profiles of all sorts abound, from the multiform and grave Norman mouldings of Earl's Barton door to the "Rectilinear" crockets of Market Deeping. The third part of this volume is so rich in noble examples, drawn in perspective, that we dare not trust ourselves to deal with them. Here are the "longs and shorts" of the Saxon tower of Earl's Barton; the fine broach spires of stone at Etton, Polebrook, and Ringstead (the last is as noble and graceful as a Greek could make it); and the stately spire of St. Mary's, Stamford, as well as the majestic but somewhat ornate tower and spire at Raunds. Picturesque Irthlingborough has a pretty lantern of "Rectilinear" design, raised high on an earlier tower, which was evidently built for defensive purposes. Titchmarsh tower is worthy of Somersetshire.

#### CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

MESSRS. G. BELL & SONS' publication *The Tyne and its Tributaries* contains a descriptive text and woodcut illustrations by Mr. W. J. Palmer. The literary part of this useful and readable volume has been prepared with care by laying histories, romances, and ballads under contribution, and dipping deeply into antiquarian publications of the present time. The cuts are all good; some are charming in execution and in feeling, and their subjects were well chosen.

*Living Painters of France and England* (Remington & Co.) is a handsomely printed and tastefully bound volume, containing fifteen etchings by English and French engravers from pictures by painters of both countries. The etchings are accompanied by brief descriptive and critical notes. Some of the etchings have just merit enough to make them attractive, but others are really valuable. Among the latter is a bright and spirited but rather slight version of Mr. Millais's 'Yeoman of the Guard,' by M. C. Waltner; the face is good, the action is excellent, but the whole lacks richness of colour. 'Une Lecture chez Diderot' is a perfectly drawn and solid rendering, by M. Mongin, of M. Meissonier's masterpiece at the Exhibition in Paris, 1867. Here again we miss the colour, and with it, of course, the chiaroscuro of the picture. The figures look like beautifully carved marble statues. M. Ramus's reproduction of Mr. F. Holl's 'Leaving Home' is good, solid, and effective. 'Le Matin' is a fine etching from the sunny landscape of M. C. Bernier; the plate is due to M. Yon's

skilful hands. 'La Madeleine' was painted by M. Henner in 1878, and is represented here by a thoroughly fine version of the nearly naked figure, in a restricted light which lent itself fully to the sympathetic skill of M. Didier, than whom no one could have rendered the picture better. M. Casanova's 'Une Mauvaise Plaisanterie' has been rendered with a sparkling effect, but somewhat slightly, by M. Lalauze. Mr. Boughton's 'Bearers of the Burden' is very carefully reproduced by M. L. Gaucherel. The distance is a little too prominent, and the figures seem too small. The masculine picture which we saw lately at the *Salon*, called by M. U. Butin 'Le Départ,' is here given admirably by M. Champollion. The emaculated pathos of Gustave Moreau's 'Orphée' must not prevent us from admiring the fine workmanship of M. Gaujean's etching. The sparkle of the satin skirts of the lady in M. Jacquet's 'La Première Arrivée' having attracted our attention in Paris in 1879, we can testify to the fidelity of M. L. Flameng's rendering of a showy picture, and wish the engraver worthier subjects for his skill.

From *Eye to Heart* (Chapman & Hall) comprises small photographs from cabinet *genre* pictures such as M. de Jonghe affects. Verses by various poets face them. The title-page says that Mr. J. S. S. Rothwell has supplied "elucidations" to the "art" or the "poetry" of this volume, we are not told which. The photographs are pretty enough for a scrap-book.

Vol. XIII. of *The Vanity Fair Album* ('Vanity Fair' Office) is neither better nor worse than most of its forerunners. The acrid writings of "Jehu" are but a trifle more acrid than of yore, and he makes antithetical points with a force and zest which, if not agreeable, are at least piquant. For instance, there is plenty of clever epigram in the notice of the Marquis Conyngham being Equerry to the Queen, who was promoted "after six years of an impetuous career after the royal carriages." "Spy's" portrait of Sir R. Temple is capital, and by no means ill-natured. "Ape's" portrait of the first Bishop of Liverpool should be true and, if a caricature, fair. We do not think the artist of the superb satiric statuette of Lord Sherbrooke, the finest of modern personal satires, has done justice to himself in delineating the bishop. The half-affectionate tribute of "Jehu" to the Marquis of Exeter is not equal to "Ape's" capital portrait. On the other hand, "T's" portrait of H. H. Ismail Pacha is worthy of the saying of "Jehu" that the Khedive "passed a gigantic Irish Land Bill in his own favour, and seized a million of acres of the best land of Egypt." Among the capital portraits here are "T's" 'Alderman Fowler,' which is first rate, and "Spy's" 'Lord Harris.' "T." has finished the likenesses of Earl Fortescue and Lord Rendlesham until they are worthy of Edridge, and too true to be satirical. "Spy's" insight into character is seen at its best in his 'Duke of Norfolk.' The Lord Mayor "lent himself" most happily to the laughter-moving pencil of the same draughtsman, whose 'Hon. W. Lowther' has touches of Frans Hals. Some of these portraits will astonish the future, because they contradict all possible first ideas of the men, e.g., Capt. Boycott is placed in an honourable niche, but his picture by "Spy" is neither fair nor fortunate; the same may be said of "Ape's" picture of the leader of the "Ever-Victorious [Chinese] Army," who, says *Vanity Fair*, "is the grandest Englishman alive, and a lieutenant-colonel of Engineers waiting his promotion."

Secured by a most ingenious and rather elegant lock, and sumptuously bound in a well-designed cover of dark sage green, impressed with blind-tooling and gold in appropriate patterns, the new *Album* for cartes-de-visite that we have received from Messrs. Marion & Co. is deserving of much praise. The leaves which are indented to receive portraits have the novel and very great merit of being in colours and dark enough to set off the photographs, that is,

instead of being white, as is usually the case with mounts for cartes-de-visite and other photographs, they are fawn, olive, grey, or green, and dark enough in tone not to overwhelm the lights of the portraits. Accordingly, the mounts assist instead of damaging the effect. A drawback to this novelty is the super-abundant richness of the patterns in dead gold which overlie the soberly toned and tinted mounts.—Apart from the painted blossom on the cover which gives its name to the volume, *The White Flower Album* (T. J. Smith & Co.) is an excellent and acceptable specimen of its class. Some of its floral illustrations within are pretty and neatly delineated. The sides of the cover are padded. Of this novelty we do not see the advantage.

## ART FOR THE NURSERY.

R. Caldecott's *Picture Book*, No. 2 (Routledge & Sons), contains three pastorals in verse and a ballad, which have been published before. They are 'The Three Jovial Huntsmen,' 'The Queen of Hearts,' 'Sing a Song for Sixpence,' and 'The Farmer's Boy.' For the verses of the first (see *Athen.* No. 2769, p. 680, col. 1) we do not care, nor do we believe that younger folks will. The designs in colour and outline are spirited and good. That of three old huntsmen starting from the manor-house is, perhaps, the best of the coloured plates, the next in merit being the two lovers in the lane. The prettiest of the outlines is that which shows how the three stupid hunters dashed along a highway towards a wayside inn. The third poem is more to our mind than the first; in it Mr. Caldecott is at home as an illustrator. Very pretty and true is the landscape covered with snow, with a warm, smoky-looking sky and the boy watching the trap which caught "the four-and-twenty blackbirds." The maid carrying out the clothes, the garments hanging on the line comprise a shirt, which is a satire on humanity, the damsel who hangs it out in the orchard, are three good cuts. In the second story Mr. Caldecott is not equal to himself. The Queen of Hearts dancing with his Majesty himself after the castigation of the Knave is almost too pretty. The best design shows the *dames d'honneur* seated on the garden daïs and witnessing the apologies of the peccant Knave.

Messrs. Waterston & Sons have published in *The Nursery Library* four noble and pathetic legends, being 'The Travels of the Mole and the Bat,' 'Squire Fox,' 'How Three Little Pigs went to Market,' and 'The Bear and the Bees.' The first two have been illustrated most luminously and humorously by Mr. W. S. Black. The fourth narrative, to which are appended "a few stinging remarks," derives point from the pencils of Mr. Black and Mr. C. A. Doyle conjointly. The third poem, to which Mr. Walter Crane added most pathetic touches, has been boldly and powerfully enriched with original designs by Mr. Doyle alone. The drawings, some of which do not seem to be new, are of considerable merit and undeniable spirit. There is much quaintness and humour in the figures of the mole and the bat, who, in order to "do in Rome as Romans do," appear in various countries variously clad and occupied: in Italy with a barrel organ and a tambourine, in England with umbrellas and macintoshes. The rich borders and laughable figures they contain are very good indeed. The music which accompanies the verses is lively, and suitable to the legend. 'Squire Fox' is exceptionally good, and shows a great amount of fun, especially in the thrilling scene in which, to the alarm of the inmates, he pokes his head into the goose-house:—

When the Ducks and the Geese declared it hard  
That their nerves should be shaken and their rest be marred  
By the visit of Mr. Fox O, Fox O, Fox O.  
That their nerves, &c.

Sadder far is the next cartoon, which shows that the depredator has haled one of the geese out of bed, and trudges home with his victim still wrapped in a nightgown, while another goose hangs over his shoulder, to the

scandal of the man in the moon, who pulls the longest of faces at such felonious proceedings. The borders of this legend are even better than those of its forerunner. In the "Little Pig" the humour tends to become caricature; still the face of the doctor who visited the sick pig and contemplated the fatal pill is first rate.

*The Children's Kettle-Drum*, by M. A. C., is published by Messrs. Dean & Son, and contains rather tame figures and vapid verses. A few of the coloured designs are pretty.—Messrs. Warne & Co. have sent us a selection of little coloured picture books from the *Buttercup Series*. The bindings and illustrations have more than usual merit in colour. Trivial as the cuts and pictures are, few of them are devoid of good qualities; all are bright and cheerful, some exhibit humour such as children like. The letter-press is the work of "Mabel," Mr. G. Lambert has supplied the pictures.

## ASHBURNHAM HOUSE.

THE Dean and Chapter of Westminster have offered to the governing body of Westminster School to give up, with immediate possession, a portion of the college garden, of equivalent area to the three houses which the Public Schools Act transferred from the former to the latter body, and at the same time to forego their claim on the ten thousand pounds which by the same Act was awarded to them under the name of compensation; but the governing body have refused even to consider the offer. It remains to be seen whether Englishmen will permit the buildings of Westminster Abbey to be mutilated for the sake of an almost hopeless attempt to galvanize into new life a moribund boarding school. Years ago the Public Schools Commission reported that if Westminster School is to continue, it must either cease to be a boarding school or be moved into the country. It is the boarding element only which has caused the outcry for more room, and the acquisition would increase rather than lessen the evil. The school may be made a first-rate day school and keep its old place, or it may be moved into the country and become a good boarding school. Nothing stops the way but the vested interests of the masters who keep boarding houses. Is Westminster Abbey to be sacrificed to them?

## NOTES FROM NAPLES.

A MAGNIFICENT gift has lately been made to the city by Prince Gaetano Filangieri. The whole of his life, says the *Roma*, has been devoted to collecting objects of antiquity, so that at the present time he possesses one of the richest museums in Italy. This he now gives to Naples. It is composed in part of a collection of mediæval arms of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; of a collection of paintings, amongst which are some of Domenichino; of majolica; of figures of animals and shepherds and other objects cut in wood, of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries; of ancient glass; of miniatures, Oriental carpets, fans, and more particularly of a splendid collection of coins and medals; and, lastly, of the portraits of his celebrated ancestors Gaetano and Carlo Filangieri and their precious MSS.—all which will be taken to the Palazzo Cuomo.

There are certain conditions, however, attached to this gift. The Palazzo Cuomo, which is one of the most beautiful specimens of the architecture of the sixteenth century, must be completed at the expense of the municipality. It is the wish of the prince that in reconstructing the palace a large hall shall be formed on the first story in which his rich collection, valued at more than a million and a half of lire, shall be deposited. Another request is that a commemorative marble shall be placed there, recording the transfer of the collection and the year in which it was executed.

Still more, it is required that the museum

shall be legally acknowledged, and that the sum of 2,500 lire=100*l.* shall be determined as the annual rental, which is to be expended on keeping it in order. It is to be hoped, and no doubt it is not a vain hope, that it will receive far more respectful attention than has been accorded to the donation of an English sculptor, long since passed away. "Poor old Gibson's casts," says a friend in a letter received yesterday, "have never been dusted since they were consigned to the garret." We both knew him well, and have spent many an hour amongst the treasures of his studio, and friendship may be permitted to utter this complaint. H. W.

## SALES.

MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON & WOODS sold on the 10th inst. the following pictures, the property of the late Mr. F. W. Hooper:—A. Elmore and T. Creswick, Dorothy Vernon's Doorway at Haddon, 50*l.* Sir E. Landseer, "Why does a donkey like thistles?" 283*l.* J. Linnell, The Coming Storm, 619*l.* H. S. Marks, The Jester's Text, 204*l.* J. Pettie, The Hour, 420*l.* J. Ward, The Fall of Phaeton, 5*l.* Sir D. Wilkie, Mary, Queen of Scots, escaping from Loch Leven Castle, 378*l.*

At the sale of the collection of medals of Don Alessandro Ruspoli, by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, one of Raphael Maffei of Volterra, by an unknown artist—on the obverse, bust to left, wearing a skull-cap; reverse, Maffei and a draped female figure standing—realized 200*l.*

The prices realized in Paris for fine pictures show no great signs of reduction. This is proved by the sums realized for the remaining works of M. Courbet, to the sale of which we alluded two or three weeks ago. Among the noteworthy items of the sale were the following:—*Les Amants dans la Campagne*, 5,700 francs; *Job*, 3,200; *L'Homme Blessé*, 11,000; *L'Atelier de Courbet*, 21,000; *Une Dame Espagnole*, 3,150; *La Belle Hollandaise*, 8,000; *Brune Endormie*, 4,100; *Jeune Fille Endormie*, 4,550; *Branche de Cerisier*, 3,050; *La Sieste pendant la Saison des Foins*, 29,100; *Le Combat de Cerfs*, 41,900; *L'Hallali du Cerf*, 33,900; *Le Retour de la Conférence*, 15,600; *Le Château de Chillon*, 6,900; *Un Soir à Bongival*, 3,500; *L'Homme à la Ceinture de Cuir*, 26,100. Of these, the last, *L'Homme Blessé*, *La Sieste*, *Le Combat*, and *L'Hallali* were bought by the State. *Un Enterrement à Ornans* was given to the Louvre by Mdlle. Courbet. The total sum realized at this sale was 251,990 francs. Another sale produced 31,645 francs, as follows: *Corot*, *Le Chevrier*, 4,700; *Portrait de Mdlle. Nilsson*, 4,000. Courbet, *Les Rochers*, 3,900. Millet, *Les Lavandières*, 20,000. Schreyer, *L'Attelage Embourbé*, 11,900. Ziem, *La Baie de Naples*, 4,000.

## FINE-ART GOSSIP.

THE approaching winter exhibition of the Royal Academy will be at least as attractive as most of its forerunners. The Queen has again opened the treasures of Buckingham Palace to the Academicians. Lord Normanton's Gainsborough's 'Cottage Door' and Rubens's 'Lion Cubs' will appear. The Sebastiano del Piombo will be accompanied from Blenheim by a noble Sir Joshua and Van Dyck's 'Love clipping the Wings of Time.' The Duke of Grafton, the Marquis of Bute, and other generous owners will lend pictures.

SIR F. LEIGHTON's picture 'Viola' will be at Messrs. Colnaghi's, Pall Mall, for ten days, from the 2nd of January. It is to be engraved as a companion to the same artist's 'Moretta,' a print we noticed some time ago. When the plate is finished the picture will be sent to the United States.

MR. F. M. BROWN writes from the Town Hall, Manchester (too late for our last week's issue), in reference to "E. S. N.'s" objections to his design:—"The subject I have under-

taken here is Crabtree the astronomer and fellow worker with Horrox, not Crabtree, Sabbatarian or Puritan. In representing a long watch from 9 A.M. to 3.20 P.M. in that darkened room, that cloudy and memorable 24th of November, O.S. (for by our computation it was the 4th of December), had it been possible to indicate that it was Sunday it would only have interfered with the unity of the subject. To harmonize with the eleven other paintings in the Town Hall it was absolutely necessary to introduce into the composition some figures besides the main one of Crabtree. All that seems known about him is that he was a 'draper' of Broughton, near Manchester; and a grand element in the subject it is, this fact of a village-draper-amateur-great-astronomer of the seventeenth century. To have introduced the female figure otherwise than industriously occupied would have made her seem more like a fine lady than the fitting companion for a village draper, his wife or sister. The apprentice in the shop beneath is represented by a hand reaching up to a shelf where there are parcels,—there might be a Bible or hymn-book behind them. But we do not in the least know what Crabtree's views were on these matters. Only Puritans were then so particular, and scientific men are not usually Sabbatarians."

In consequence of the shortness of the days and lack of light at this season, Mr. F. Madox Brown has temporarily relinquished his fresco 'Queen Philippa and the Flemish Weavers,' one of the pictures we lately described as intended for the decoration of the Town Hall at Manchester. He is now busy with the design for the sixth painting of the series, which is designed to illustrate the order of the Court Leet of Manchester that all weights and measures should be tested. The scene the artist proposes to paint comprises the shop of a provision dealer such as might have existed in Manchester in 1566. Mr. Brown represents an old bellman, staff in hand, swinging his lantern from his long pole of office, and bawling out the substance of a proclamation which he displays. His companion is a faithful but ill-looking dog with a spiked collar and a muzzle. These were worn "by Order," and that order was, as local records tell, enforced by four official dog-muzzlers. The shopkeeper and his wife listen to the proclamation with ill-concealed disgust. She, with prompt compliance suggested by fear, scrapes from the under side of the scales the butter which has unjustly been allowed to accumulate there. For an audience the beadle has a school-boy, who carries the bow and arrows the law ordained for his age, a ragged girl, and, in her arms, a sleeping baby. The artist proposes to finish both the pictures referred to above by the end of next year.

THE prizes awarded to students of the Royal Academy on Saturday last comprised the following: Mr. Samuel Melton Fisher, a Gold Medal and Travelling Studentship (200*l.*), for an historical painting; Mr. B. Hook, the Turner Gold Medal and Scholarship (50*l.*), for a landscape; Mr. O. A. Junck, a Gold Medal and Travelling Studentship (200*l.*), for a design in architecture; Miss M. Hickson, the Creswick Prize (30*l.*), for a landscape; Mr. H. M. Paget, prize (40*l.*), for a design for the decoration of a portion of a public building; Mr. M. W. Grifenhagen, the first Armitage Prize (30*l.*); Mr. T. C. S. Benham, first prize (50*l.*), for a set of six drawings of a figure from the life; and the following silver medallists, who stood first in various competitions: Mr. H. B. Fisher (two medals), Mr. J. E. Breun (two medals), Mr. B. E. Ward, Miss T. J. Noyes (medal and prize), Miss S. R. Canton, Mr. D. J. Wade (medal and first prize), and Mr. W. B. Bassett-Smith. For the medals or prizes offered for five subjects there was no competition.

ON Monday last was opened at the European Galleries, 103, New Bond Street, "the First Exhibition of Fine Art and the Second Exhibi-

tion of Decorative Art," being, so far as the second portion of the gathering is concerned, a continuation of the practice of last year, to which we adverted at the time.

RUBENS's picture of 'The Miracles of St. Benedict,' to which we lately referred as about to be sold with the collection of the late M. Tencé, of Lille, has been bought for the gallery at Brussels, price 170,000 francs.

IN about three months a new official catalogue of the picture gallery at Amsterdam will be published in a volume of nearly 600 pages. The price is to be a Dutch florin. The book has been edited by Heer Kaiser, the director of the gallery.

A GALLERY in the Musée Carnavalet was opened for the first time to the public last week, having been devoted to the reception of views of ancient Paris. The ceiling is decorated with a picture by Lebrun, removed from the Hôtel of the Marquis Dangeau when that mansion on the Place Royale was destroyed. The subject is an assembly of the gods on Olympus.

A REPRODUCTION of M. Barrias's statue of B. Palissy—which is to be set up at Boulogne-sur-Seine—is to be placed in the little square in front of St. Germain l'Auxerrois, Paris.

A FRENCH contemporary declares that Paris will be taken possession of by new statues. The following are among the novelties: that of Pinel, destined for the Salpêtrière Hospital; the Marceau of M. Clésinger, and his Hoche, Kléber, and Desaix, which are to be placed, when finished, on the Esplanade des Invalides. The allegorical monument of the defence of Paris will be installed at the Rond-Point de Courbevoie. The statue of the République Française, by M. Morice, will occupy the centre of the Place de la République. M. Dalou's Monument Allégorique will decorate the Place du Trône. Statues of Étienne Marcel, for the Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, and of Voltaire, for the front of the Mairie du 11<sup>e</sup> Arrondissement, are in hand. The colossal Charlemagne is, it is presumed, to be erected in the Place du Parvis Notre-Dame.

IN recognition of the services of Viollet-le-Duc, the hall containing the collection of French sculptures in the new museum of the Trocadéro is to bear his name.

THE German papers announce the discovery at Augsburg of a bronze statuette of Mercury. The feet are wanting, but otherwise it is well preserved. The head is covered with the *petasus*.

THE Sous-Commission des Monuments Mégalithiques has been fortunate enough to acquire for the French Government the menhir at Locmariaquer, the sculptured dolmen called "Table des Marchands" or "Table de César," as well as proprietary rights over another well-known dolmen. It is proposed to acquire other monuments in Morbihan and Finistère.

THE Government of Malta have just issued a memoir of the recent discoveries at Notabile. The objects found consist of a suite of five large floors of mosaic pavements; three mosaic pictures embedded in matrices of stone; the remains of three white Carrara marble statues—one of Greek origin, representing a male figure covered with the Roman military cloak, the third representing a female wearing much the same garment as the Ceres Julia Augusta found at Gozo; fragments of Latin inscriptions on white marble slabs; several plateal brass coins, mostly effaced, only four being legible, namely, of Gordian, A.D. 238-243; of Aurelian, A.D. 270-274; of Constantine, A.D. 337-360; and of Constantine Junior, A.D. 337; several articles of toilet and domestic utensils, such as large bodkins of ivory, pieces of wind instruments, &c. Dr. Caruana, the librarian of the Public Library at Malta, has drawn up the report. The memoir is accompanied by very good photographs of the objects found.

ON October 25th, the festival of Bolivar, the liberator of Spanish America, besides some

bridges, five new statues to heroes of the war of independence were "inaugurated" in the city of Caracas in Venezuela. Such evidences of prosperity are becoming more common in South America than they used to be.

## MUSIC

### THE WEEK.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Sacred Harmonic Society.  
CRYSTAL PALACE.—Saturday Concerts.  
ST. JAMES'S HALL.—The Popular Concerts.

OF the three oratorios composed by Prof. Macfarren, the first, 'St. John the Baptist,' seems to be held in the highest estimation. The Sacred Harmonic Society produced it in London in 1874, and has kept it before the public by repetition at frequent intervals. This is well, so far as it goes, but although the overture to the work is possibly finer than any portion of 'The Resurrection' or of 'Joseph,' these latter oratorios do not deserve to be thrust wholly aside. This remark applies more especially to 'Joseph,' which contains a larger proportion of varied and effective music than either of its companions, though the number of principal vocalists required for its performance is a circumstance that has undoubtedly affected its position. The rendering of 'St. John the Baptist' by the Sacred Harmonic Society on Friday week fell very little short of perfection. The work would seem to be a favourite with Sir Michael Costa, for he conducted it with that extreme carefulness which always marks his direction of music with which he is in complete sympathy. Executants are greatly influenced by this feeling or the want of it on the part of a conductor; and in this instance the effect was shown by the combined vigour, precision, and observance of the *nuances* that characterized the efforts of the orchestra and chorus. Miss Mary Davies made a great effect in the soprano music, singing the florid air, "I rejoice in my youth," with remarkable fluency and ease. Madame Patey, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Mr. Santley, of course, rendered their several portions of the oratorio in a manner absolutely beyond reproach. At the close of the performance a call was made for Prof. Macfarren, who bowed his thanks from the upper gallery of the hall.

The Crystal Palace concert last Saturday was not one of special importance. The programme, it is true, contained a novelty and a first appearance, but the work possessed no great interest for musicians, and the executant had been already heard several times elsewhere. M. Marsick, a young Belgian violinist, now settled in Paris, is one of the many foreign musicians who have been introduced to English audiences by Mr. John Ella. He made his *début* at the Musical Union in 1878, and was criticized in favourable terms in the *Athenæum*. The opinion then expressed may now be endorsed with emphasis. M. Marsick is a player of no ordinary calibre. His tone is rich and full, and his technique absolutely faultless, the executive difficulties which abound in Vieuxtemps's Concerto in *D* minor being mastered with consummate ease. The *tremolo* characteristic of the French school was slightly apparent, but not to an unpleasant extent. The work he selected for his first appearance at Sydenham is the fourth (according to Fétis the fifth) of six

violin concertos left by Vieuxtemps. The last, dedicated to Madame Norman-Néruda just before its composer's death, has not yet been heard in public. The Concerto in *D* minor is novel in form, consisting of an *andante*, in which the solo instrument maintains a kind of florid recitative, an *adagio religioso*, a *scherzo*, and *finale*. The second movement is cleverly written, and undeniably effective, the applause that followed being unusually prolonged. Beethoven's Symphony in *D*, the popular gavotte from 'Mignon,' and four numbers of Mr. Arthur Sullivan's 'Tempest' music formed the orchestral portion of the programme. Miss Anna Williams may be commended for her vocal selections—the air of the Spirit of the Hour, from Mr. Hubert Parry's 'Prometheus Unbound,' and Liszt's "Kennst du das Land?" To-day Mr. Henry Leslie will conduct the concert, and his new symphony, entitled 'Chivalry,' is to be performed for the first time.

On Monday evening, at the Popular Concert, Schubert's *Ottet* was performed for the first time in its complete form. Hitherto it had been the practice to omit the *andante* with variations and the minuet, at first from necessity, and latterly, it may be, from a fear of wearying the audience. Schubert was never alive to the advantage of conciseness, and in this instance he has certainly exceeded the limits that prudence would suggest in the construction of an instrumental work. As given on Monday, with all the repeats, the *ottet* occupies a trifle over an hour in performance, and is probably the longest chamber work in existence. The movements hitherto omitted are not less bright and melodious than the rest of the composition. The theme of the *andante* is a gem, and the variations are very ingenious, while the stately grace of the minuet and trio is in excellent contrast to the quicker motion and liveliness of the *scherzo*. There were no symptoms of waning attention on the part of the audience, and the performers were recalled with more than ordinary enthusiasm. Mr. Holländer, who has hitherto played the viola, occupied the position of leader for the first time. His style is not remarkable for brilliancy, but his tone is exceptionally rich and powerful. Mdlle. Janotha played Chopin's Nocturne in *c* sharp minor, Op. 27, and the Polonaise in *c* minor, Op. 40, in her best manner, and the concert concluded with Mozart's Trio in *E*. Miss Carlotta Elliot won deserved applause for her artistic delivery of songs by Moscheles, Mendelssohn, and Macfarren.

### Musical Gossip.

WE have received the prospectus of the series of performances of Wagner's 'Ring des Nibelungen' at Her Majesty's Theatre next year. Four entire cycles of four evenings each will be given during the month of May, under the direction of Herr Anton Seidl, of the Leipzig Theatre. The list of vocalists already announced is very strong, comprising the names of Frau Vogl, Frau Reicher-Kindermann, and Herren Niemann, Vogl, Scaria, Reichmann, and Eilers, all well known in Germany as exponents of Wagner's music. The whole of the scenery, properties, &c., used at Bayreuth in 1876 will be brought to London for these performances, which will be superintended by the composer in person.

THE second of Mr. John Boosey's sixteenth

season of ballad concerts was given on Wednesday evening. The vocalists announced were Madame Marie Roze, Miss Clara Samuelli, Miss Edith Santley, Madame Antoinette Sterling, and Messrs. Edward Lloyd, Santley, and Maybrick.

MDLLE. JANOTHA gave a pianoforte recital on Wednesday afternoon at St. James's Hall, which was well attended. Her programme included Beethoven's 'Sonata Pathétique,' Schumann's 'Carnaval,' Chopin's Polonaise in *F* sharp minor and Berceuse, and some miscellaneous pieces, among which was Brahms's Rhapsodie in *G* minor, companion to the one in *B* minor, which the pianist introduced at the Popular Concerts a few weeks ago.

THE fourth of the Kensington Popular Concerts, under the direction of Mr. Ridley Prentice, was given at the Kensington Town Hall on Tuesday evening last.

HERR THEODOR KRANICH announced a concert for last evening at the Steinway Hall, in which he was to be assisted by Mr. J. C. Ames and Mr. Albert M'Guckin.

AT Mr. Charles Halle's seventh concert at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on the 8th inst., Berlioz's 'Childhood of Christ,' which produced so great an effect on its first performance under Mr. Halle last year, was repeated. The soloists were Miss Edith Santley, Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. Hilton, and Mr. Santley.

THE series of orchestral concerts lately given at the Brighton Aquarium was brought to a close last Saturday by a performance of Beethoven's 'Choral' Symphony, which has not before been heard in Brighton. The symphony was preceded by a miscellaneous selection, the most important feature of which was Beethoven's third Overture to 'Leonora.'

AT Mr. Stephen S. Stratton's third chamber concert, given in the Masonic Hall, Birmingham, on the 6th inst., the programme included Brahms's Quintet in *F* minor, Op. 34; Mr. C. E. Stephens's Duo in *G*, for two pianos, played by Miss Emily Walker and the composer; Beethoven's Romance in *F* for violin; Chopin's Scherzo in *B* flat minor; and Mendelssohn's *Ottetto*.

AT the Châtelet concert last Sunday a Berlioz festival was given, on the occasion of the anniversary of the composer's birth. The programme included the Overture to 'King Lear,' selections from 'Harold' and 'Roméo et Juliette,' the ballad 'Sara la Baigneuse,' the Hungarian March from 'La Damnation de Faust,' and the second act of 'Les Troyens.'

THE death is announced from Italy of Signor Bagagiolo, well known in this country as an excellent bass singer at the Opera.

THEODOR BÜHM, the inventor of the system of fingering for wind instruments known by his name, has lately died at Munich, at the advanced age of eighty-eight.

## DRAMA

### Dramatic Gossip.

THE announcement that Messrs. James & Thorne have dissolved partnership, and that the Vaudeville Theatre is henceforth to be in the hands of Mr. Thorne, can have surprised few who were familiar with theatrical affairs, or who took cognizance of Mr. James's long absence from the stage of which he was nominally manager. Mr. David James meanwhile has accepted an engagement from Mr. Irving, and will play his original character of Our Mr. Jenkins in the revival at the Lyceum, on Boxing night, of Mr. Albery's comedy, 'Two Roses.'

AS is common at this period of the year, the early part of the week has been devoid of theatrical novelties. Thursday evening witnessed, however, the production at the Criterion of Mr. Gilbert's comedy, 'Foggerty's Fairy.' The

Criterion company has appeared during past week at the Standard Theatre in 'Betsy.'

The lesson of the calamity at the Vienna Ring Theatre has been preached continuously to deaf ears. Until a similar accident takes place in London nothing will be done here. One manager after another has told us that a calamity such as that in Vienna was impossible. Lulled by this comfortable but not wholly disinterested assurance, our authorities go to sleep and leave intact the theatres in cellars, in hospitals, and in other like localities of which London, happily for the rest of the world, has a monopoly. It is useless to say that it is only in the panic following a fire that complaint is heard. Again and again the *Athenæum* has stated that a calamity such as Vienna has witnessed is only escaped by accident in London. At the present moment a third of the London theatres are horribly unsafe, and should be closed by authority.

'AMY ROBSART,' Halliday's version of 'Kenilworth,' first produced at Drury Lane in September, 1870, has been revived at Sadler's Wells. In the part of the heroine, created by Miss Neilson, Miss Emily de Witt, a young actress unknown as yet in London, made a not unpromising debut. Mr. E. Price was Leicester, and Mr. McIntyre, Varney.

'LA FILLE DU DÉPORTÉ' of M. Ernest Morel, produced at the Théâtre des Nations, is a sufficiently sanguinary melo-drama with a strong political bias. Its chances of success, never too brilliant, appear to have been marred by the wearying effect of political tirades.

'GRANDE REVUE' is the title of the Variétés revue, which has been brought out earlier than the usual period. M. Lassouche and Madame Angèle play the principal parts. The piece is in no wise distinguishable from previous works of its class.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—E. V. B.—W. S. A.—J. S.—A. J.—received.

E. A.—We cannot undertake to answer such questions. No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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